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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

September 24th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 38 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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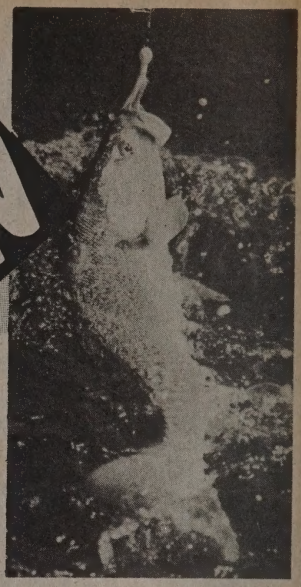

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THIS WEEK'S WINNING NUMBER IS:

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LAST WEEK'S WINNER IS:

No call was received by the Wednesday deadline, therefore there is no winner for last week's L.I.F. Bumper Sticker Contest.

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	CAPT. JOSEPH				

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 38 **September 24th, 1981**

Features:

NATIONAL SCENE ..... Al Ristori 5

Fish Talk:
MY LIFE AS A HUNTER ..... William A. Muller .. 6

Sinker Bouncing:
FLUKE EXPERIMENTS ..... Matt Ahern 8

Surf Fishing:
INLET WEAKS ..... D. W. Anthony 10

Boating Tips:
HOW'S YOUR ROWBOAT I.Q.? ..... Bob Whittier 12

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ ..... Fred Guardineer 13

AUTUMN: SPELLED B-L-U-E ..... Gerald Hahn 14

SHORT CUT TO A TROPHY STRIPER ..... Fred Golofaro 16

Protecting Wetlands:
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ..... Paul Dritsas 18

Departments:

Bumper Sticker Contest Winner 2
Pass It On 4
Fishing Reports 21
Fisherman's Classified 44
Tide & Solunar Tables 47

About the Cover—

L.I.F. Editor Fred Golofaro, with a brace of nice bass taken inside Great South Bay. See the article "Short Cut to a Trophy Striper" on page 16.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **OCTOBER BULLDOGS**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Fred Golofaro — EDITOR
Carolyn Brewer — ART DIRECTOR
Rick S. Reina — PRODUCTION MANAGER

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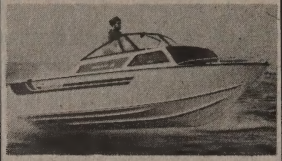

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Pass It On...

FLOTILLA 13-7 BOATING COURSE

In a continuing effort to foster safe boating, Flotilla 13-7 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a free class this fall.

The course starts on September 17, 8PM, J.F. Kennedy High School, Bellmore. Registration will be held during the first two weeks. The class runs 12 weeks, and will cover the safe way to boating enjoyment with boat handling, weather, radiotelephone, marlinspike seamanship, legal requirements, rules of the road, aids to navigation, charts and compass. A Certificate of Proficiency is awarded by the Coast Guard to all who pass the final examination.

For further information, contact Dr. Martim Agin, 868-9062.

FREE BOATING COURSE FLOTILLA 13-3

A 10-week course given by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-3 will include rules of the road, charts and compass, weather, radiotelephone, marlinspike, seamanship, boat handling and marine engines.

Registration: Tuesday and Wednesday, September 22 and 23, 8-10PM at the Long Beach Junior High School in Lido. These are evening classes on Tuesday, 8PM and will run for 10 weeks. First class is Tuesday, October 6th.

Saturday morning classes for the same course will be held at the Long Beach Public Library at 111 West Park Ave. Registration and first class October 17, from 10AM-Noon.

No charge for the course. Further information call Seymour Freeman, (516) 432-6479.

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY CELEBRATION

National Hunting and Fishing Day will be celebrated September 26 and 27 by the "Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen." The event will be held at the South Shore Mall, Bay Shore, New York.

Member clubs will display their expertise in fly tying, firearms, trapping, fresh and salt water fishing, the shooting sports, carving and painting.

The Alliance welcomes this opportunity to present its member clubs to the public, and urges all citizens to join us in a rededication to the wise use of our national resources and their proper management for the benefit of future generations.

Everyone is invited to attend; there is no charge, and an opportunity to see, learn and ask questions of Suffolk's sportsmen.

For further information, call (516) 588-7151.

2ND ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST BY SUFFOLK ALLIANCE OF SPORTSMEN

The Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen Inc. (SASI), a non-profit organization, is hosting its second annual legislative breakfast at 9AM, October 4, 1981, at the Holiday Inn, Exit 55 off the Long Island Expressway in Hauppauge. The cost will be $6 per person with reservations and $7 per person at the door.

The program will spotlight candidates running for the 18 legislative seats in Suffolk County. All sportsmen are urged to attend to hear what position the candidates have on issues of hunting, fishing, conservation, trapping and firearms control.

For more information or reservations, call Bernie Meyers at (516) 888-8321 or Wayne Nester at (516) 234-5369.

FULL MOON BASS TOURNEY

Captain Bob Rochetta's new world's record rod and reel striped bass will be on display at the Montauk Marine Basin to whet the appetites of anglers entered in the 4th Annual Full Moon Striped Bass Tournament scheduled to be held this year from Friday, Oct. 9, through Monday, Oct. 12th.

In the Full Moon Tournament, boat anglers and surfcasters will be fishing for stripers on feeding grounds from Plum Gut on Long Island's north fork to rips around Montauk Point and on to south of Block Island. The contest will be divided into three fishing periods starting at Noon on Oct. 9th and end at 2PM on Oct. 12th.

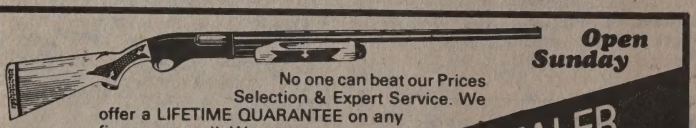
Cash prizes for the heaviest overall bass will include $300 for 1st place; $200 for 2nd, and $100 for 3rd. Trophies will be awarded for heaviest bass in each of the three sessions and for heaviest bass in the surfcaster division, junior division and women's division. In addition to a captain's trophy, special awards will include a free mount of the boat division's winning fish by Fish Unlimited of Babylon, and a free mount of the surfcaster division's winning fish by Eastern Taxidermy of Farmingville.

The junior division winner will be treated to a striper fishing session aboard the Rainbow II under the tutorial supervision of Capt. Bob Rochetta. He caught his record fish, determined to be 24-years-old, last July 17 fishing with live eel bait from the Rainbow II.

A total of 75 boat anglers and 15 surfcasters vied for prize winning stripers in last year's Full Moon Tournament. The overall winner was George Boulay of Taftsville, CT, with a 42¾ lb. bass. Other winners included a 2nd place tie between Billy Flood of Queens, a boat angler, and Ted Shaine of Montauk, surfcaster, who each brought a 32½ lb. bass to the scales; Alex Robrecht of Plainview, won 3rd place with a 31½ lber., which also placed him first in the junior division, and Dino Riccio of New Rochelle, whose 21½ b bass was the tournament's first fish weighed in.

IGFA rules apply to boat anglers in the tournament, except for the allowance of wire lining and umbrella rigs for trolling. No harpooning. All anglers must register with a $15 fee before fishing.

For further information, contact Carl J. Darenberg, Jr., at the Montauk Marine Basin, 516-668-5900. Entry forms are available at the Marine Basin on West Lake Drive and at the Montauk Chamber of Commerce Building on the Plaza in Montauk.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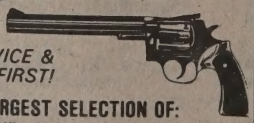
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Japan Agrees to Concessions

by Al Ristori

With pressure mounting for Congressional action to bring tuna under the provisions of the 200-Mile Limit law, the Japanese fishing industry has agreed to further restrictions. According to Peggy Stamey, chairman of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Billfish Committee, the Japanese have agreed to both lower their catch of spawning giants in the Gulf of Mexico and to avoid the 1973 year class which provides our best hope for the future.

As readers of this column are aware, the Japanese longliners have been catching great numbers of giant tuna each winter in the Gulf of Mexico since the mid-Seventies—at the very time that American fishermen have been restricted in their catch for conservation reasons. What s worse, the giant tuna taken by the Japanese are in the process of spawning during the period in which this fishery takes place. The Japanese catch during most of these years has been running from 8,000 to 10,000 per year, though they were supposed to reduce to 7,000 this year as part of an agreement made with former House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee chairman John Murphy.

The latter agreement was made in an effort to stave off the attempt by conservationists to add the Atlantic bluefin tuna to the 200-Mile Limit law. According to Senator Lowell Weicker (R-CT), the actual Japanese catch in the Gulf this spring was 7,741 giants—well above the limit they'd agreed to. Now they proposed to reduce their catch to 6,500 for 1982, and to report damaged fish as part of their catch. Mrs. Stamey estimates that this should save 700-800 tuna per year. Now that we're finally getting up to the 100% observer coverage that Congress committed to last year, there is a greater likelihood that the voluntary quota will be adhered to.

The Japanese have also agreed to stop fishing in the Gulf of Mexico on May 1st rather than the current cutoff date of May 15th, and to use no more than 24 vessels in the Gulf. Furthermore, they will continue to avoid fishing in American waters of the Caribbean.

Further north, the Japanese agreed to avoid fishing for the critically important 1973 year class of bluefin tuna—the only strong year class since those of the late-Fifties and early-Sixties which have provided the great giant tuna fishing of recent years. After the West Coast seiners moved in during the early-Sixties each succeeding year class of tuna was nearly wiped out. Even though those seiners left a long time ago (when the resource declined), the activities of the few East Coast seiners have been enough to keep school tuna populations from building up. While I'm happy to hear that the Japanese will be avoiding the 1973 year class, I'm not quite sure how they're going to do that—since they've been claiming all along that they were actually fishing only for yellowfins and bigeyes. Nevertheless, according to Senator Weicker, the Japanese have been taking between 4,000 and 16,000 school and medium bluefin tuna off the Atlantic Coast each year.

The Japanese have also agreed to reduce their fishing gear conflicts with American longliners, lobster potters and crab potters by not fishing in areas where American fixed fishing gear was operational. Furthermore, they accepted a procedure by which the waters off Cape May, New Jersey to Cape Cod will be divided into four areas—at least one of which will be left free of their longlines during each three month period of the year. From June 1st through September 30th, the Japanese will fish no shallower than 300 fathoms and will use no more than 20 vessels at a time. This time period is an extension of 20 days from the previous agreement.

Though all of this is an improvement over the present situation, it represents just one more band-aid on a major cut. Not only are they continuing to overfish the ever-diminishing giant tuna population, but they are also killing far too many billfish and other species in the course of their longlining. The Mid-Atlantic Council has pushed a suggestion that the Japanese longliners be given a numerical by-catch allocation for billfish. Should they exceed that quota they will be forced to stop fishing altogether. The Japanese turned that concept down altogether; and since they're calling the shots, that's probably the end of that proposal.

Quite obviously, the only solution to this problem is to include tunas in the 200-Mile Limit. Such an action would bring us into line with the position of other countries on this matter, and permit us to completely control the activities of foreign longliners within our 200-Mile Limit. There is certainly no justification for severely restricting the catch of American fishermen at the same time that foreigners are permitted to take far more. The result of this "policy" has been both the loss of income to domestic fishermen and a continuing decline in the resource.

As previously reported, there is now legislation in Congress which would rectify this situation. Senate bill S.1564 just changes a few words in the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (200-mile-limit) which eliminates the exception for highly migratory species—defined as tunas. This bill was introduced by Sen. Weicker, with co-sponsorship from Senators Tsongas (D-MA), Chafee (R-RI), Hollings (D-SC), Roth (R-DE), Bradley (D-NJ), Hawkins (R-FL), Pell (D-RI), Chiles (D-FL), Kennedy (D-MA), and Warner (R-VA).

Some of Senator Weicker's comments in introducing this legislation are of particular interest: "The United States originally excluded tuna from the FCMA because it was felt that international management was the best way to conserve tuna stocks. Unfortunately, Mr. President, circumstances have changed. While the United States relied on the agonizingly slow or dormant international negotiation process, Canada, Mexico, and the great majority of Central and South American and West African nations have declared control over the catching of tuna within their economic zones.

Even so, the West Coast tuna interests and the State Department have resisted past attempts to include tuna in the FCMA, declaring that such action would hurt our fishermen's chances to fish tuna claimed by foreign countries. Despite the protestations of many foreign nations, the State Department has managed to force open access to foreign tuna stocks, largely through use of embargoes. It is hard for me to believe that the State Department through the use of this highly effective tool, could not also negotiate equitable quotas of foreign tuna for U.S. fishermen.

Passage of this legislation will ensure effective management of our tuna and billfish resources. We would also expect the Secretary of Commerce to immediately implement emergency legislation particularly for foreign fishing interests. These

(Continued on page 43.)

MY LIFE AS A HUNTER: A Short Story In Serial

Part Three — *by William A. Muller*

Their inability to spawn every year was difficult to accept in their own way and their inability to tolerate great temperature extremes the way they had when they were young was inconvenient. Yet, they didn't need to linger for that extra food because now they were so big that they ate just about whatever they wanted and the internal call for food just wasn't as strong as it used to be.

The great year class of her seventh year was much smaller now and there had not been very much successful spawning since then. Each spring there were fewer of her species pushing north, and then even fewer coming south again. Where were the babies? Perhaps Alai now understood why she must live on in spite of her inability to spawn each season. She, and the other great cows like her, were the reserves and when they did spawn perhaps the millions upon millions of eggs that each one of them produced would keep the species going.

She swam with the other two, Mei and Slar, for the next three seasons. The three great fish were always careful now. They spent much of their time in one place and the place was always selected because there was a plentiful variety of food, because there was good cover among rocks and debris, and most of all, because there were almost none of the dangerous floating fish that Alai still did not fully understand.

In the winter of the next year, while the three fish were sleepily sustaining themselves, Slar tilted over on her side and drifted away in the current. She was gone and like the brothers and sisters of her youth, Slar would not return.

It was now the seventeenth year for Mei and Alai, and Mei would never make the swim back south. She was tired and at times during that summer she could not catch even the slowest prey. She grew smaller as her body absorbed first the fat and then the flesh itself in an effort to stay alive, but it was no use because the great fish Mei grew increasingly weaker until she could not swim very far or very fast. Then one night when a large shark leisurely swam by, Mei could not get back to cover in time and the shark snapped at her, tearing away her tail and then circling to bite deeply into her belly. Mei was gone and Alai was alone again.

Alai spawned the next spring although many of her eggs did not hatch and many of those that did hatch withered and died quickly within a day or so. Yet Alai had been productive again and at least a few of her offspring survived. In spite of her age and bulk she felt strong and vigorous and made the migration north quickly. She went back to the same spot where she and Mei and Slar had spent the last few years. She did not see another fish, either that spring or that summer, that was her equal in size and so she remained alone for the summer. She was in her eighteenth summer and her weight continued to increase. She was almost seventy pounds now and her bulk gave her a great security and confidence. She found that she did not object to being alone and, in fact, found an advantage to it because she could be as cautious as she wished without a companion giving her away or putting her in danger. She saw none of the floating fish all summer, but she did not forget them or the dangers they presented to her.

In the fall of that year she lingered because the water was warm, the food plentiful, and the seas calm. She fed almost exclusively at night in recent years because she felt safer doing so.

There was a lot of bait moving with the current. The bait was moving in response to the same migration urges that were welling up inside her and she found that she could maintain a more or less constant position and pick off baitfish as they moved towards her. On most nights she filled her belly quickly and could return to her cover. But she had lingered and the schools of bait were thinning out and each night there were fewer and fewer. In the day she watched as school after school of her species swam past her cover to migrate south. Still she lingered, but each night she had to feed longer to fill her belly. Then one night she took up her usual position behind a slight rise of sand and began to feed. The bunker were gone, and most of the eels had moved either deep into the bays or out to sea; but there were squid which she favored.

Then the squid were gone and although she had packed many into her gut, she was not full yet. She waited for the next school. Within minutes she heard the vibrations of something swimming; heading towards her. She could not see it yet, but her lateral line transmitted the message of approaching food. There was something unusual about the vibrations and instinctively she looked up for one of the floating fish: she saw none. It came closer and then she could see it. It looked okay, but the swimming action wasn't right, so she let it pass by. If this were a school of baitfish, there would be more to follow and thus she could let this one go by without loss. For awhile there were no others, but then she picked up the vibrations of a swimming baitfish again. It was the same slightly-in-error vibration as before. The tide was almost gone and she wanted a full belly before going back to her cover. Tomorrow she would have to swim south because there simply wasn't enough to eat here anymore. The vibrations were getting closer and she had to decide. As the baitfish swam nearby she watched it carefully and although the vibrations were not just right, there was nothing wrong with the bait that she could see and the motion was almost perfect.

She made her decision. She gave one thrust of her tail and as she did this the powerful muscles in her gill covers opened while she kept her lips together for just a fraction of a second. Then, as she approached the bait she opened her mouth and the great vacuum created in her mouth sucked the bait in. When it was in her mouth she clamped her jaws together so that it could not escape and prepared to swallow it. Suddenly, she felt the sting and it dredged up memories from fifteen years ago when the bait pulled her towards the floating fish. But there was no floating predator this time. What was happening?

She turned away from the pull and pushed her massive tail back and forth several times. She generated great force and was actually able to swim away from the pull, but not the sting in her mouth. Still, she gained momentary confidence at being able to pull away. But she could not keep it

up. She rested for a minute by putting her great bulk sideways to the pull and then when some of her strength returned she tried to swim away again. And so it went: she rested and then tried to swim away, again and again.

She was getting tired and she could not maintain her distance from the beach. She was being dragged towards where the waves turned white. Just when her body was about to be pulled out of the water, when her belly dragged in the sand, she found the strength for one more spurt and beating her tail, half in and half out of the water, tried to pull away. Then it was over and she was lying on the sand, fatigued, and frightened. She saw the figure walk to her and she had not forgotten that shape in all these years. It was the creature from the floating fish, but there were no floating fish. She tried to slap her tail down on the sand defiantly, but she was too weak. She heard the same vibrations that she heard that time before and she did not understand them. "Take it easy girl," the man said. "You'll be all right, ol' girl. God, you're big! The biggest bass I have ever seen or thought that I would see in my life." Gently, not briskly the way the man had done in the floating fish, this man removed the hooks from her jaw. It still stung, but not so badly as before. "Look at you, you're beautiful. Look at your color and those big, clear eyes." The man's hands shook, his voice trembled, and his knees were unsteady. This was truly the fish of a lifetime and he put his light on it to admire her in the still cool night air.

"You're the fish I've been looking for for so many years, but now that I have caught you, I just can't kill you. You're just too magnificent." The man placed his rod and his lure bag on the sand and picked the great fish up as carefully as he could considering her great bulk. He walked into the gentle surf and placed Alai in the water. She wanted to swim away but her muscles wouldn't work. The man supported her head with one hand and her tail with the other and gently moved her back and forth in the water. The water gradually moved across her gills and some strength returned. She still could not swim away however, but the man continued to move her in the water. With each minute, more and more strength returned and she was able to move her fins slowly. "That's it," the man whispered, "you're doing just fine. Take it easy. Come on baby, go, go." Suddenly she felt she could swim and with a spurt of her tail she was gone. "See you next year," the man said and turned his back on the surf.

Alai moved off into deeper water where she rested the night as she did so many years ago. The next day she started her migration and she felt quite good. She had learned another in a series of many lessons, but this one had a twist. The creature from the floating fish isn't always so bad.

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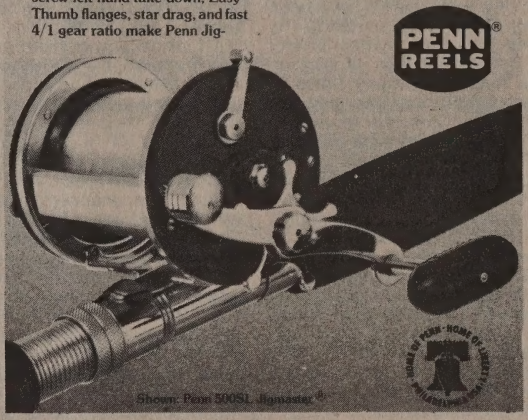

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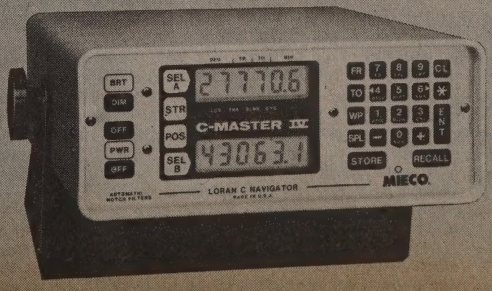

SINKER BOUNCING

FLUKE EXPERIMENTS

by Matt Ahern

It is too bad the letter which follows arrived too late to use at the height of the fluke season. But it will certainly be a boon to us fellows next year, especially those of us who have been wondering what goes on with the fluke when they put on their finicky act.

As I've mentioned many times in this column, the best fishermen are those who take time out to experiment. But I believe Vincent Badame of Middle Village has gone beyond the call of duty on this one. I'm sure you will think so, too, after you have read this extremely interesting letter.

"Dear Matt, From early July to early August I have done some underwater research on my favorite fluke holes off Riis Park which might be of interest to you and your fishing partners. If you remember I mentioned this special spot which you said was like yours years ago in Island Park. So I did some skin diving to check out the fluke's habits.

"For years I have been wondering about how fluke attack their prey and also to improve on my catch ratio. So for five weeks, every chance I had, I tried to further my education on fluke habits. I had a ball watching fluke go bananas over my feeding experiments.

"To start, I put eight, six-inch jumbo live killies in a clear plastic half gallon Pepsi bottle, which was then secured and lowered from my boat above. I sat on bottom and watched fluke come over and try to attack those big killies. From 12' away (I was sitting very still on bottom), I watched three fluke surround the bottled killies like Custer's Last Stand. Each fluke (about 20") banged the bottled killies three or more times. One seemed so angry that it pushed the bottle around its area with its nose for a good five minutes before moving off.

"Another fluke (a small doormat about 5 lbs.) struck twice, then just stayed 6" away, watching the killies go nuts inside the bottle. It remained there for several minutes before moving off. It couldn't figure out why it didn't get its meal. I even noticed that this one arched its side fins at the vexing problem it was watching. In the first three hours I had counted 16 fluke that swam up to the bottled killies. Some even stayed in the area, their bodies buried in the sand, watching.

"I believe this could make a great attractor for fluke and solve the problem of pests, too. Chum has the drawback of attracting crabs, skates, dogfish, etc., but the bottle was only approached by fluke and one sea bass (about 2 lbs.).

"I understand from freshwater anglers that this system is used on school fish like white and yellow perch and crappies in the South, too. With live grass shrimp it might work on weakfish.

"Next experiment: My partner in the boat used both live and dead baits: killies, snappers, and sand eels as I watched again from down below. On killies, two live ones on one hook attracted the fluke's attention quicker. They just grabbed them any old way possible. Now with one 4" jumbo killie that wasn't too lively, quite a few fluke swam up to it, but if it didn't attempt to swim away, the fluke either retreated or bit off the tail. They wanted to see the killie swim. If the killie jumped, good-bye killie. If not, they refused the meal. As the old fluke-fishing law states: keep it moving.

"Now the fluke react differently to a snapper. Most fluke grabbed the snapper head-first. Then the fluke would shake the snapper like a whip to kill it. It didn't matter if the snapper was dead and lay on the bottom; the fluke would attack them the same way. But of those fluke that did seize the dead snappers, fifty percent would drop the bait one or more times before gulping it down. Only it the snapper was found dead still on the bottom did the fluke do this. Live or moving bait was inhaled, never dropped.

"Finally, free-swimming sand eels. These were consumed like popcorn. The fluke just swam up at full speed and inhaled them like a vacuum cleaner. I guess this is because sand eels can burrow into the bottom so fast, the fluke must overtake them before they can escape.

"I saw some fluke glide along the bottom and then bury themselves a foot or so from the baitfish. If a killie swam near or over a fluke—good-bye! If this didn't happen in 15 or 30 seconds, those fluke would slowly coast along the bottom and when they were under the baitfish—wham! The killies were gone!

"One thing about a fluke's speed. For five or so feet, they can flash by—my guess would be at about 15-20mph. So even if you are retrieving your bait with a 5-1 ratio reel, you could not out-reel a fluke if it wanted a meal.

"Now, knowing this, I tried a new fluke-casting rig on August 14th at Riis Park and August 15th at Island Park. I used either 4-6 inch snappers, fresh dead, or frozen large killies, or a 1½ oz. Tom Mann worm jig (5/0 hooks). When using the worm jig, the hook was run through the mouth and out near the tail.

"I just cast out the snapper (or killie) rig and let it rest on bottom for a couple of seconds. Then I would reel as fast as possible for about four yards, then let it settle again, repeating until retrieved. If you wish to try this, keep your rod tip down, pointing at the water as you retrieve. When the bait is grabbed, you can put the backbone of your rod into the striking stroke. It's like bluefish jigging. Usually the second or third time I turned the reel handle, I would get a solid yank and a good-sized fluke.

"When casting from the sea wall at Riis Park, I got 7 fluke to 4½ lbs. At Island park, I got 21 fluke—four of them over five pounds each. The old-timers there were in shock. They were using live spearing and killies. Among seven of these old-timers only four fluke were caught in three hours. I was there from 11AM to 1:30PM. I even hooked a good-sized striper about 12 lbs. there in Island Park, but it got off before my net was under it. This was at high noon. What made it so much fun was using my Penn 450 reel, 6' rod and 10 lb. test line. Those fluke put on some show of muscle. You should have seen those old-timers' faces when I kept returning those fluke—even the five pounders. How much fluke fillets can a guy eat anyway?

"Well—back to the experiments.

"During the last week of July at Riis Park, the water was filled with 1" blue crabs and the fluke were feeding on them right on the surface. While I was sitting in 15' of water, a school of big weaks ran into me, which almost made me have a heart attack then and there. Can you imagine turning around and seeing 14 or so 8-15 lb. weakfish heading right at you 8' away! They were in such a crab-feeding spree, they swam right past me. I could have bulldogged one if I wasn't so shocked.

"Well, there you go. I finally found

(Continued on page 42.)

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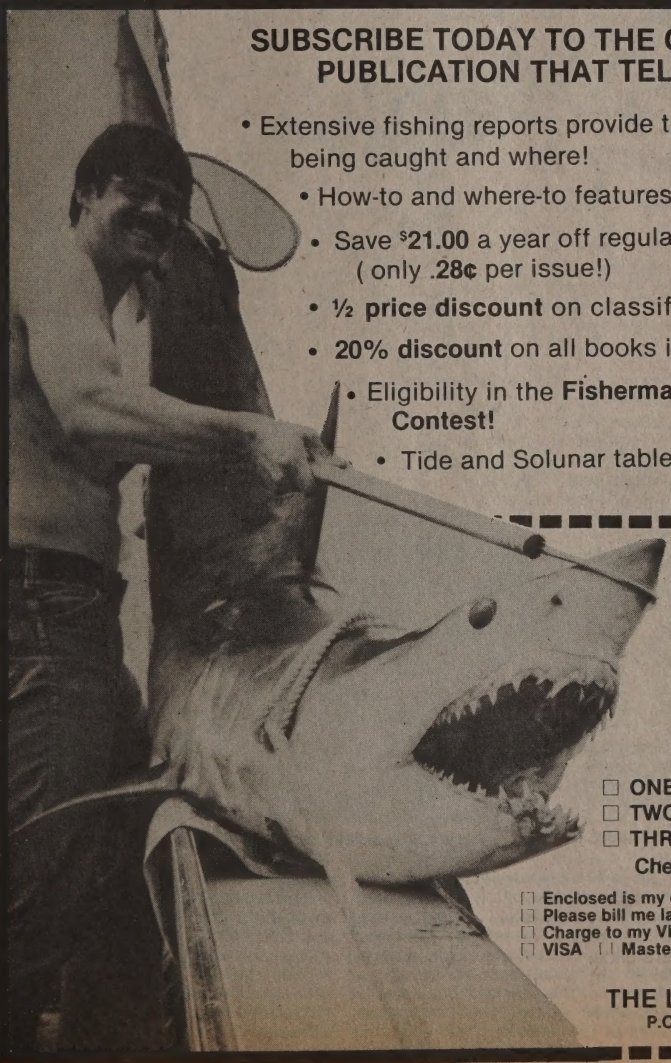

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INLET WEAKS

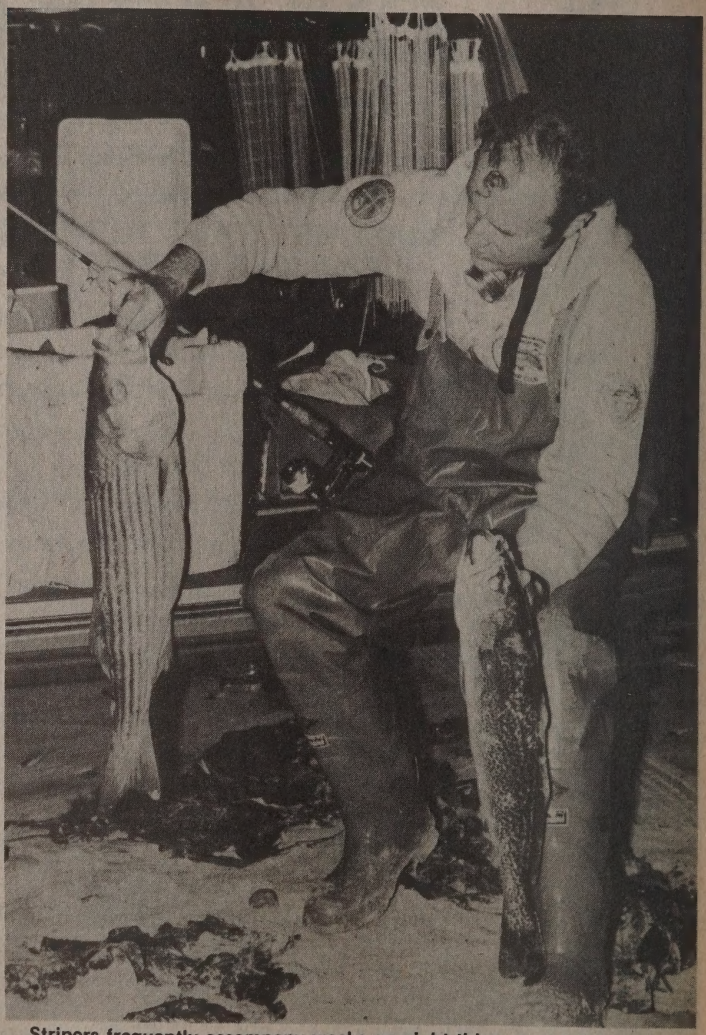
by D.W. Anthony

We usually think of May and June as prime weakfish time, and yet the fish never really go away all summer. Sometime in June, depending upon the weather, most of the larger fish will head out of the bays of the south shore and into the ocean. However, they stay close and, at times throughout the summer, boat fishermen will take them—sometimes right at the inlet mouth and other times up to a couple of miles off the beach. These same schools of weaks will, from time to time, make runs up into the inlets at night where surf fishermen can get a quick, but solid shot at them.

However, when the fall arrives and the bait starts to move down the inlets these same schools of weaks can make a second and often even more impressive showing. Needless to say, as with all surf fishing situations there are complications. In spite of the complications enough solid information can be pointed at to indicate that inlet weaks can be a good bet.

To begin with, any of the inlets—Jones, Debs, Rockaway, Fire Island, Moriches, and Shinnecock, can produce. In light of high fuel prices it might be a good idea to fish the inlet closest to home. In that way you can hit it several nights in a row and that will increase your chances of scoring. The best of the action will likely occur in October, but it may be hard to pinpoint which week. A lot depends upon the weather, and sometimes the easternmost inlets may produce later than the ones to the west. This, some anglers explain, is a result of close-by fish hitting the western inlets while Montauk migrants make stop-offs at the eastern inlets.

If this year is anything like the last few, Jones Inlet should be the best western inlet bet and a variety of techniques should work. The Jones Inlet area provides a lot of space for the beach fisherman to wander and unfortunately, the game fish we are after can show up at any given stretch on any given tide on any given day. Another reason why those who live close-by seem to catch the most fish. In lots of other locations from Maine to Florida, game fish are consistent with specific tides and seasons. Often this isn't the case at Jones Beach. One night they'll be between the Wantagh and the piers feeding on bunker, and the next night or the one after that they'll be off the West End jetty feeding on sand eels.



Stripers frequently accompany weaks on night tides around the inlets.

The patience you will need may pay off in big dividends. It isn't uncommon for the weaks in Jones Inlet during the fall to average somewhat larger than elsewhere. This may be due to the abundance of bunker at that time of the year or it may just be coincidence, but for whatever reason, weaks of ten, eleven, twelve pounds and more are not an unrealistic expectation.

The beauty of the fall fishing is that a variety of techniques will catch fish as I said before. Some fishermen will throw worms, bunker chunks, or cut mullet from the front and take weaks; other guys will work bottle plugs and darters from the jetty rocks, while still others will prefer to use the large RedFins and Rebels and if the fish are

there and hungry they'll take fish with all these methods. Many fishermen prefer to prowl the back and if they come upon a school of bunker, they'll snag one and let it swim. Needless to say when you swim a live bunker there's no telling what you may find. You may be thinking weakfish, but an outsized bluefish or a cow bass may have other ideas. Therefore, in spite of the fact that you've set your bunker adrift to catch a weak, bring along the tackle to handle the other species. If you are bit-off once, try a wire bridle. Big weaks in a fall feeding binge are tough customers, so bring along a rod big enough to handle a surprise bass because the weaks will put up more than a respectable struggle. If you swim a live bunker for a weakie remember to give the fish a lot of time to swallow that bunker. Weaks have smaller mouths than bass and they can't chop the bait up the way blues do; so give 'em time.

Plugs are great, too, in the back and often plugs will take the weaks even when they are feeding on the bunker with enthusiasm. That may be an odd combination in other places, but at Jones Inlet it happens again and again.

Although some weaks, blues, and bass may show during the dusk and dawn periods during the early fall in Jones Inlet, far better and more consistent success is had by those who fish at night. This may not be the case to the east. We'll skip Fire Island Inlet because the best weakfish action there seems to be spring and solid in the summer, but weaks in the fall are less reliable and are usually only second thought additions to schools of beach feeding bass and blues. There are exceptions, of course, but the pattern of recent years seems very predictable. To the east weak fishing may be more of a daytime thing than nighttime. These oddities of nature are difficult to figure out, but they happen. In the last several years, casters at Shinnecock Inlet and Moriches Inlet have had fine late fall fishing for weaks and large blues—usually feeding together. These fish have been most accessible during the day and often well beyond the dawn period. The dusk has been the signal on many a feeding binge for a halt to the action.

Tins have been the choice out east for clear reasons. Most often the weaks are observed to be feeding on sand eels and the long thin tins are good copy-cats. Second, more often than not, you'll need some distance—either because the weaks are feeding close to the offshore bar where sand eels are running the beach or because typical fall weather puts a heave on the ocean. From what we've seen, we recommend that you bring long lean tins up to four ounces because you may need that weight. Obviously, heavy tins like that need a healthy surf stick and we recommend an eleven to fourteen foot stick to handle the tin and get the distance. Needless to say, there are exceptions and there have occurred those mirror-like days when there were no waves and feeding weaks were virtually at your feet. On these rare occasions the kids, as well as the adults have a ball with one-handed sticks.

Styles of retrieve seem to vary a lot as do the style of the tins. Some people prefer treble hooks and feathers or bucktails, but the majority of fishermen seem to prefer a single siwash hook that lacks all feather or hair embellishments. There are several reaons for making this choice. First, a large single and free swinging hook is harder for any game fish to shake, but I believe the most important reason is the retrieve that's become very popular. Most regulars seem to heave the tin out, let it settle in the sand, and then retrive it very slowly. They are actually dragging the tin through the sand. Once in awhile they'll flick the tip of their rod so that the tin will shoot off the bottom for a second and then flutter back down pushing up a puff of sand when it lands. This retrieve imitates the sand eels that the weaks are feeding on. The open sand beach on either side of the eastern inlets are usually quite clean and except for the occasional clam shell that will be snagged from time to time, there is little other debris to lose a lure on.

Many a time the weaks will either suck the tin out of the sand or they will hit the metal lure as it settles back towards the bottom after having been jerked up briefly. The flutter seems to be very important and that's why thin, flat-sided tins are preferred. However, it is worth mentioning that we have seen times when diamond jigs worked best. In any event, since you'll be dragging the lure through the sand, the hook will dull quickly. You would not think that easy moving sand could dull a hook, but it does. Therefore, carry a small fine file to touch up that point every fifteen minutes or so.

You'll not find too many baitfishermen working the front out east if the weaks have proven they'll hit the tins, but you will find one or two fishermen walking around the jetties to the back to fish bunker. It was true to the west and it's just as true here; either weaks, blues, or bass can favor that bunker, so be ready.

If you have a buggy you may be able to follow the weaks down the beach in the daytime. Even when there are no blues around the birds may give away the position of the weaks feeding below. If the sand eels move, so will the weaks. We have heard of some anglers who have succeeded in staying with the feeding school for hours by leap-frogging down the beach. In the fall, the movement of bait and weaks will likely be to the west regardless of tidal flow.

Well, that covers the basics. There's only one thing left to do and that's head down to the inlet and give it a try. That's where I'm going, so maybe I'll see you there.

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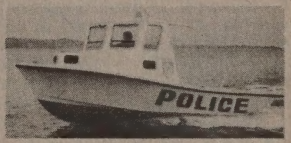

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How's Your Rowboat I.Q.?

by Bob Whittier

Interest in rowboats and rowing is growing fast. There was a time when an avid game fisherman would snort in great disgust if you suggested he could put a rowboat to good use in his sport. But no longer.

The kind of fellows who like to read and talk about old-time boats began making reproductions of assorted dories, wherries, flatties and other real rowing craft of long ago. People saw how well they rowed, and bought copies either for the fun of it, for good exercise, or to avoid the not-too-minor expense of one of today's smaller outboard motors for puttering around in harbors. Now real rowboats are being built in increasing numbers in several small shops up and down the coast.

Many people assume that rowing is darned hard work. They pick up this idea from watching people rowing in aluminum utilty craft that were designed for sportsmen to use with outboard motors. To provide space for both motor and operator, they have wide sterns. When such a boat is at rest, its broad, flat transom is immersed to a depth of a few inches in the water. When one pulls on the oars, this not inconsiderable volume of water is sucked along by the transom. That's where the arm-fatiguing drag comes from.

A small craft designed specially for rowing has its stern shaped to avoid this drag. In a common flat-bottom rowboat, the bottom is swept up from amidships aft so that the transom's lower edge is carried above the water line, thus it does not suck water along. If such a boat is loaded so that the lower edge of the transom gets to be immersed, then, of course, drag starts to increase noticeably. So many real rowing boats have pointed sterns. Such a stern always "lets go" of the water regardless of the load aboard and amount of immersion of the hull. Such a stern can have a variety of shapes: "wine glass," pointed, or "tombstone" such as in a dory. These shapes are chosen to suit the material and method of construction, but all have the end result of allowing the underbody of the hull to come to a fine point at the waterline so as to avoid suction drag.

Aluminum utilities, John boats and similar craft may have oarlock seats popped on so that one can get ashore if an outboard quits. But they are often poorly proportioned for effective rowing. An oar is but a lever, and an oarsman is but an engine that drives the lever. For the "engine" and oars to work to best advantage, there has to be a good relationship between hull width, oar length, height of oarlocks above the water, distance of seat below the oarlocks, and distance of the oarlocks aft of the seat. You may get a good combination by luck in a boat meant mainly for outboard power, but more often you won't.

The broad stern of a typical aluminum utility, top, does a good job of supporting an outboard's weight—but it causes much drag when rowing. A good rowboat hull, such as the dory in the lower picture, is designed to move through water at rowing speeds with least drag. This dory is made by Boatcraft, 689 Minneford Ave., City Island, N.Y. 10464.

A good rowboat can make a fine craft for some kinds of fishing. If you move a few hundred feet at a time from spot to spot, or go a short distance offshore, engine power is not really needed. One who is good with his oars can sneak up on likely spots quietly. He can back toward them if that seems desirable. He can pivot on a dime and work into tight spots. Without motor weight, a rowboat can offer shallower craft. You can combine arm, leg and torso exercise with your fishing hobby by rowing a mile or so to a good spot.

Transom drag makes a broad-sterned outboard hull row along in a series of jerks, but a slippery-hulled rowing boat "carries way," or continues to glide along, during the recovery strokes. It will cover distance with surprisingly light, easy oar strokes.

Best way to get on the trail of the small companies now building real rowboats is to look for their ads in boat-lovers' publications such as **The Small Boat Journal, National Fisherman** and **The Woodenboat.** Because of low volume, high overhead and the hand-work involved, it's hard to find a ready-made boat for under $1000. With winter coming, give a thought to making your own. Send a stamped, addressed business-size envelope to Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Ct. 06355, and ask for a copy of their list of small craft plans. Write to International Marine Publishers, 21 Elm St., Camden, Maine 04843 and ask for a copy of their boat book catalog; look for literature on rowboats by Culler, Bolger, Gardner and others. Remember that some rowboats are designed primarily for easy, fast rowing and may be too narrow or round in the bottom to be stable enough for fishing use.

Ask any Boy Scout what store in your locality sells official Boy Scout gear; go there and get a copy of their "Rowing" merit badge booklet. Ask your nearest Red Cross office where to get a copy of the Red Cross booklet, "Basic Rowing." These will get you off to a good and safe start as an oarsman.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

1 FISH LIKE THIS ARCTIC EEL-POUT THAT BEAR LIVE, FREE-SWIMMING YOUNG, RATHER THAN LAY EGGS, ARE CALLED_____

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

2 GREAT WHITES, MORE THAN OTHER SHARK SPECIES, HAVE THE BLOODSTAINED REPUTATIONS AS MAN-EATERS.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER

3 NORTHERN BLOWFISH, KEPT IN A TANK, HAVE SMALL MOUTHS, BUT THEIR HARD CUTTING JAWS ENABLE THEM TO FEED EASILY ON LARGE PIECES OF FOOD. WHAT ARE THEY USUALLY FED ?

4 MUSKELLUNGE, "*THE TIGERS OF THE NORTH*" HIT BEST NEAR THE SURFACE AND IN...

...SHALLOW WATER IN
SPRING ☐
SUMMER ☐
EARLY FALL ☐
LATE FALL ☐

5 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE CONSIDERED TO BE EFFECTIVE BAITS FOR CARP ? CORN ☐ WORMS ☐ GUMDROPS ☐ JELLY BEANS ☐ DOUGHBALLS ☐ POTATOES ☐

6 A LOBSTERMAN FRIEND OF MINE OFTEN PLACES KEROSENE SOAKED BRICKS IN HIS TRAPS. ARE LOBSTERS REALLY ATTRACTED TO KEROSENE, A READER ASKS ?

1-VIVIPAROUS. 2-TRUE. GREAT WHITES PREFER TO EAT MAMMALS SUCH AS WHALES AND SEALS. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MAN ARE OBVIOUS. 3-ANYTHING. 4-SUMMER AND EARLY FALL. 5-ALL OF THEM. 6-THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ARTIFICIAL BAITS USED TO ATTRACT LOBSTERS MADE OF OILS AND KEROSENE. EXPERIMENTS SHOW THAT KEROSENE-SOAKED BRICKS ATTRACT LOBSTERS ABOUT 60 % AS WELL AS REDFISH CHUNKS.

AUTUMN: SPELLED B-L-U-E

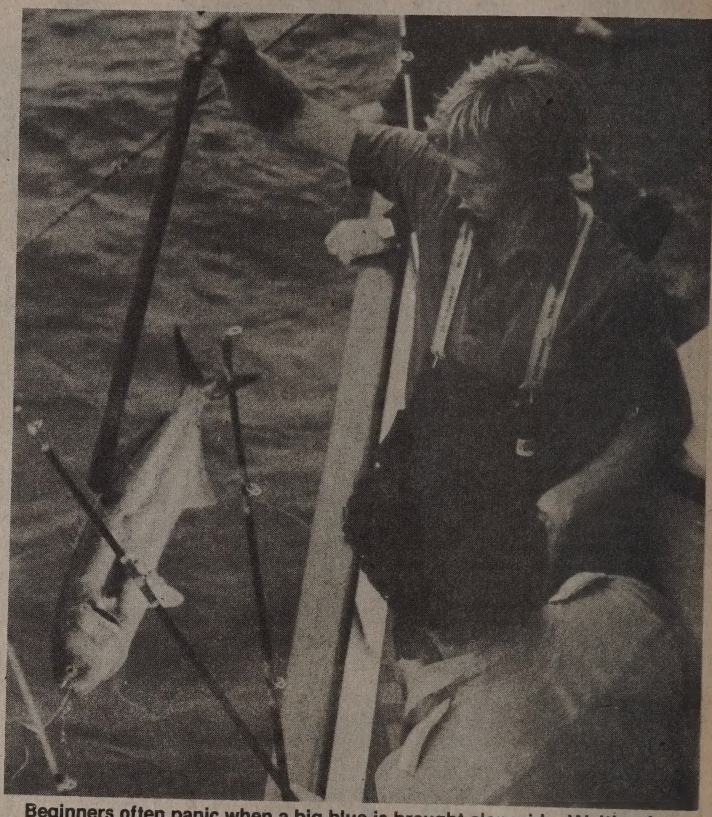
by Gerald Hahn

EDITOR'S NOTE: While bluefishing had been almost non-existent at Patchogue during the summer, a solid run of fish had developed by the first week of September.

For the last few seasons, the Patchogue Outer Banks has been one of the most productive bluefishing spots on the south shore. Party boats from Captree, Freeport, and even Sheepshead Bay, have been fishing here with great success. Located about 15 miles south of Patchogue, between Fire Island Inlet and Moriches Inlet, in about 120' of water, the Outer Banks area attracts hordes of sand eels on which thousands of bluefish glut themselves each fall. In the early summer, the boats work the shallower 80' depths just north of this area for blues in the six to ten pound class. As the water warms, however, larger fish move into the Outer Banks, and by September and October, bluefishing reaches its peak when choppers weighing 12 to 18 lbs. come flying over the rails; so thick are the fish at times, that party boats frequently return early. As if this is not sufficient, many days bluefish alternate with bonito, albacore, skipjack, and other school tunas ranging from 6 to 25 lbs.! One unusually warm October day in 1979, I saw two tuna weighing 70 lbs. each, taken from a party boat fishing for blues, while a magnificent school could be seen frolicking on the surface.

Returning to bluefish, artificials account for most of the great catches here. Although baitfishing can be equally productive—especially at night—lures are more exciting to work with. In fact, they have several advantages over bait. In the first place, no time is wasted replacing bait after each catch; nor rebaiting shredded ones half-eaten by cagey blues. Furthermore, because lures must be worked rapidly to be effective, bluefish attack them more aggressively than stationary natural baits. No slow striking, nibbling predators to contend with. Finally, even inexperienced anglers do well with artificials because once the bluefish start feeding, they will chase any flashing object in the vicinity.

By far, the best lures at the Outer Banks are diamond jigs. Most people here use jigs in the three to four ounce range. Some are shaped with two or four surfaces or planes; others with six or more. A few jigs have hammered designs resembling fish scales; the majority are smoothly finished in bright chrome. Some days, jigs covered with heat-shrink tubing in red or green work well, but generally chrome does the job best. In fact, many times chewed-up chrome jigs are more effective than new ones, so don't discard them or paint them. Hooks on these jigs are usually 3/0 or 4/0, either Limericks with bent shanks for securing plastic split-tail tubing in red, green, or white, or O'Shaughnessy hooks with regular shanks. The best jigs come with a single hook mounted to a built-in barrel swivel, which prevents a blue from prying itself free. Moreover, the swiveling hook and its accompanying split-tail provide greater movement, simulating an undulating sand eel. Any diamond jig with a treble hook or a rigidly mounted one may be altered, indeed improved, by adding a stainless steel split-ring, a barrel swivel, and an open ring hook or a second split-ring for other kinds of hooks. For extra security against "alligators," use two split-rings at each end.



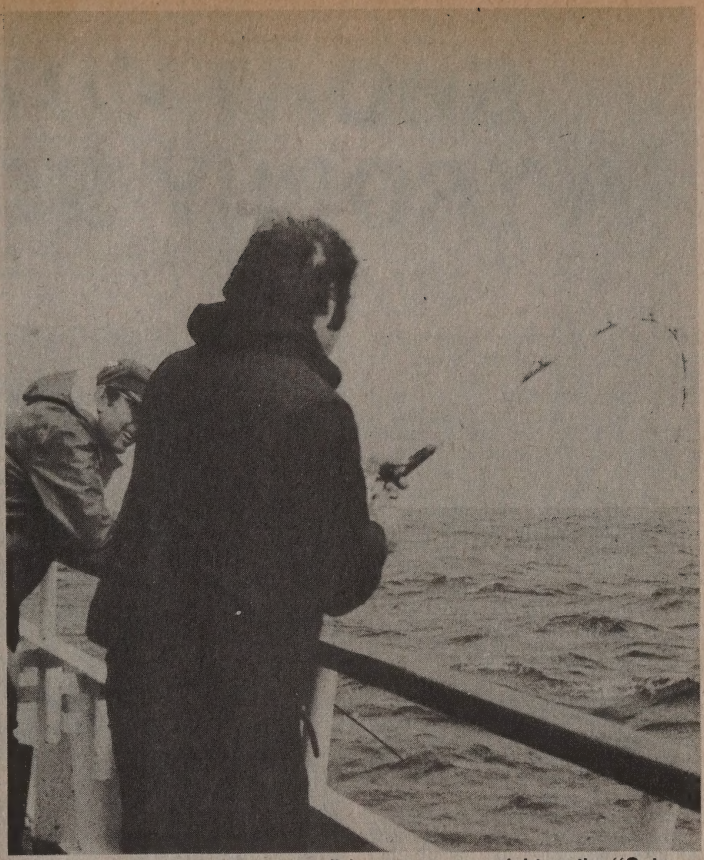
Beginners often panic when a big blue is brought alongside. Waiting for the gaff, however, is the only way to deck these choppers.

A 6' to 7½', medium action conventional rod is used for working a diamond jig. The most popular reels are those with fast retrieves, like the Penn Jigmaster with its 4:1 ratio. However, the fishing is usually so intense at the Patchogue Banks that even slower reels, like the Penn 65, normally used for bait fishing, will catch many blues. At such times, the lure is hardly worked before a fish is on. No matter which reel is used, the fisherman who works the lure properly catches the most fish.

The diamond jig should be tied directly to the main line, usually low visibility pink monofilament in 40 lb. test, with a standard clinch knot. For those who prefer lighter line, 20 lb. test and more action, a shocker of 40 lb. test monofilament is recommended. Tie several feet of this material to the main line with an improved blood knot or a surgeon's knot. Many people fish with 30 lb. test, in-between the meat fisherman's heavier grade and the sportsman's lighter grade. In no case should a wire leader be used; it defeats the action of this lure, and bluefish will reject it. As an example, one novice next to me was bewildered by his poor catch in the midst of a bluefish rampage. Exasperated, he finally blurted out, "What am I doing wrong?" Noticing his setup, I advised him to remove the wire leader, and within a few minutes he was happily bailing blues like the rest of us. "Diamond jigs **do** work!" he exclaimed. They certainly do.

In the fall, most of the bluefish at the Outer Banks feed near the bottom in densely packed schools. Consequently, the captain anchors the boat or stems the tide over a productive spot, and lures are dropped right to the ocean floor. The reel is put in free-spool with a finger on the line to prevent a backlash and the lure begins its long descent. To speed it up, the rod is aimed at the line's entry point in the water, allowing the monofilament to pass easily through the small guides. As soon as the line slackens or the bump is felt, the reel is thrown into gear and the handle cranked rapidly about ten revolutions. When blues are crowded together, they will strike the jig within the first five revolutions. However, if there is no pick-up, the lure is dropped back again, and then retrieved to a higher point where it may intercept other bluefish. On an unusually slow day in the fall, it is better to retrieve the jig almost to the surface. Knowing how to cast with conventional gear also helps during these periods.

Knowing these basic rules is not sufficient. Beginners catch about five bluefish, whereas experienced anglers may catch 15 to 30 fish. The difference in the catch begins with the angler's selection of a fishing spot on the boat. Although party boats generally are not crowded in the fall, experienced anglers are usually found at the bow or the stern and not at the sides. Next, the experienced angler always sets the drag on his reel slightly below the line's breaking point; he knows that if the drag is too tight, the fish can wear a hole in its mouth and throw the hook or break the line. Most bluefish pounce on the lure, but many are not firmly hooked. A regular can tell the difference by the weight of the fish, and he sets the hook several times with sharp lifts of the rod before he begins to play the fish. Moreover, while playing the fish, he keeps his thumb (or his thumb and index finger) on the line in front of the reel to assist the drag mechanism in slowing down the fish as it takes line. This is also useful for spooling the line back evenly, in criss-cross fashion, onto the reel. Beginners forget to do this, and sometimes the line piles up on one side of the spool and jams suddenly. Another problem beginners face is their failure to move with their fish. Most choppers, even though hooked directly under the boat, swim to the side when they are about halfway to the surface. The immobile novice tangles his line with other lines and loses his fish—sometimes his lures, as well. The beginner also has a tendency to panic while waiting for a busy mate to gaff his fish. He lifts the fish partially out of the water, and the blue spits out the hook. In fact, "small" bluefish up to 6 lbs. can easily be hoisted aboard with the rod if the beginner follows a few simple rules. The first is to keep the fish's head in the water; the second is to lower the rod while taking in the slack, until the fish is as close to the boat as possible. Finally, the blue should be hoisted **gently**, by slowly and smoothly raising the rod and taking care not to let the fish strike the rail as it comes over the side. After each battle with a blue, after each tangle, the line should be checked for abrasions and cut back, if necessary.



Rods straining against large bluefish are a common sight on the "Outer Banks."

A few other details are worth noting. Although most people use three ounce jigs, many experienced anglers prefer six ounce jigs because the weight is matched to the heavy line. With a 6 oz. jig it is easier to detect the bottom, especially in choppy water. Also, the heavier jig descends faster than the lighter jig, the monofilament offering less resistance to its movement. One problem with six ounce jigs, however, is that bluefish sometimes reject them. You feel a sudden hit, and then nothing. If this happens several times, the problem may not be the oversized lure, but the large hook. Replace it with one from a three ounce jig.

If you like ample fishing room and have strong sea legs, plan a trip on an overcast, rainy, or windy weekday, between mid-September and early November. Even on pleasant days, you will generally find fewer people aboard party boats than in the summer.

If the Outer Banks are even half as good as the past few seasons, you are bound to experience some of the fastest bluefishing of your life.

SHORT CUT TO A TROPHY STRIPER

by Fred Golofaro

Of the many questions I have fielded over the years pertaining to catching fish, there is one that crops up time after time, after time. "How can I catch a big striper?" is numero uno to scores of novice and not so novice angers alike. The reason is simple. A big striper (for logistics sake, let's consider big being over thirty pounds) is an eyeful of magnificent beauty with that shimmering silver and white bulk accented by those bold and gallant stripes. To this day, whenever I land a big striper, my knees knock and my palms moisten, but most of all, I am awed. If the day ever comes when I become so callous as to not experience these emotions, then it will be time to hang up my rod.

For those seeking their first big cow bass, October is prime time in south shore bays and inlets. Fish summering over the in bays, shake loose from their lethargic trance as waters cool and join with other stripers migrating from waters to our north and east.

The easiest, and certainly the most surefire technique for taking big stripers is by drifting live bait. Blasphemous as it may sound to some, the approach is far removed from drifting killies for fluke. While the method is carried out to an exacting science by some sharpies, just practicing the basics will almost guarantee you your prize if you're willing to "put in the time."

More than any other factor, the overwhelming difference between the "sharpie" and "Joe average" is the number of hours spent out on the water. Especially in these lean years is it necessary to put in a lot of time. If you're a once a week angler and your fishing trips are planned for convenience rather than for optimum fish catching conditions, the odds are very much against you ever getting your trophy.

Now this will probably make a lot of good bass men flinch, but despite all you have heard and read, there is no need to work night tides, especially during October, when fishing live bait. In fact, I have probably caught as many big stripers under the sun as I have under the stars at this time of the year. There was a time when all of my bassing was confined to after the sun went down. A number of years back, however, those same holes and rips that were pretty much void of boats during the night began attracting more traffic than I cared to tolerate. Swinging over to day tides meant little, if any, competition for those same bass spots and the fish seemed to bite just as well.

Note the tail end of a bunker visible in the maw of this teen-size striper.

A good rule of thumb to follow for daylight fishing is to concentrate your efforts in the deepest parts of bays and inlets. Most of the better spots in the Fire Island area, for example, are in the thirty to forty foot depth range. Under most circumstances, baits should be kept tight to the bottom and unless you're hanging up every now and then, your bait is not where it belongs. There are times when two or three ounces of lead will do the job, while four or even five ounces are required under certain conditions. The type of bait being used, phase of the moon, wind, stage of tide, and water depth all enter into the picture. While we are on the subject, your lead can be in the form of a drail fished between line and leader, or a sliding egg sinker rigged in fish finder fashion. Twist-on rubber core sinkers work nicely when less than two ounces are required, or for those rare occasions when the fish are up off the bottom.

A variety of baits will work, but there are several which stand out above all the rest. Live eels, bunker, blackfish and flounder are the top four baits, although sand porgies, bergalls and snappers will also take fish at times.

Regardless of the bait you choose, it must be kept alive. If your boat does not contain a built-in live well, consider purchasing a portable well from The Caddy Company (see their ad in the Classified Section). I prefer a circulating type system over an aerator, especially if less hardy bunker are being used. We have run a few articles concerning rigging live bait wells in recent years, so I won't go into detail again here.

No bait well is needed if you choose to fish eels. Simply purchase one of those floating, plastic minnow cars and give the eels a fresh dip every few drifts. Don't forget to drain the water after each dunking. They will stay in one of these cars for the entire fall if

you're able to keep it tied up at your boat slip. Your only enemy here will be thieves.

Tackle for livelining should consist of a medium action conventional rod of six to seven feet in length with a fairly stiff tip. Reels similar in size to the Penn Jigmaster or the Daiwa 50H and loaded with 30 lb. mono work out just fine. At the terminal end, a four foot length of 40 lb. leader material is tied in between hook and line.

Hooks vary depending on the bait, but all you will really need are some 6/0 short shank tuna hooks and some 3/0 trebles. The single hook is for eels and flounder, while I prefer the treble for bunker. Blackfish can be fished with either hook, depending on your preference.

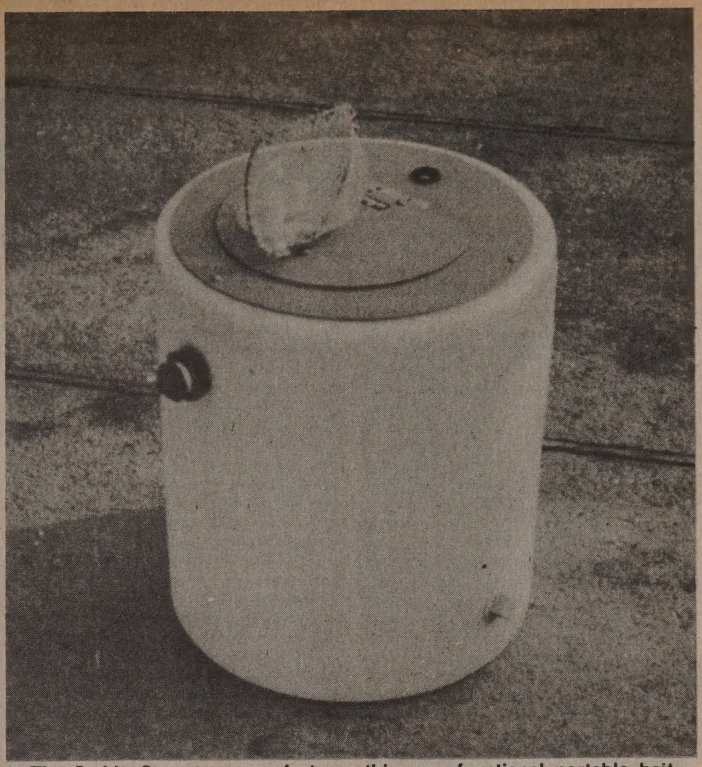
When hooking eels, run the point of the hook up into the bottom of the mouth and out one of the eye sockets. Flounder are hooked through the meat of the back under the front third part of their top side. Blackfish should be rigged the same way with the hook going through just ahead of their dorsal fin. Bunker may be hooked in the same manner when slow drifting conditions prevail. Otherwise, insert one barb in the mouth and out the bottom and another barb in and out through one of the bait's nostrils.

When drifting either of these baits, your reel should be kept in free spool. When a pickup is felt, apply just enough thumb pressure to keep the line from backlashing while the fish mouths and runs with your bait. While most anglers wait a specified period of time, a ten count for example, once there has been a change in the pickup such as stopping and running again or a sudden burst of speed, then it's pretty safe to set the hook. Carry a hook hone and keep hook points razor sharp to help ease the task.

Before leaving you on your own, just a couple small items that warrant mentioning. When repeating drifts over an area, do not run back over the same area you or others are fishing. Circle outside of the spot when running back uptide for subsequent drifts.

When you finally do get your trophy striper alongside the boat, don't panic. Simply lay the point of the gaff under the fish's belly and give a sharp left. Trying to gaff a big bass in the back or side is like trying to pierce armor plate.

Well, if it all sounds quite easy—you're right. We did leave out one very important ingredient, however, and that is **where**. Just follow the basics outlined here, ask questions, look and observe, and most important of all, "put in your time." The "where" will come.



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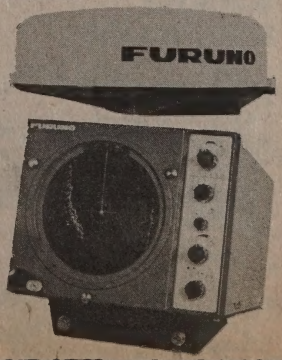


PROTECTING WETLANDS:

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

by Paul Dritsas
American Littoral Society

Despite a spate of activity by states and public interest groups, productive wetlands, fresh and salt, are still being buried in the pursuit of "progress." But one agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has the power to control much of this destruction.

Wetlands stretch along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and occupy the interface between land and water. Periodic flooding by the tides creates saturated soil conditions that limit the plant and animal types that can survive in this wet environment. Yet, in salt marshes, **Spartina** grasses flourish along the often inundated tidal stream edges while in the higher portions of the marsh, saltwort, seaside goldenrod, and marshmallow splash the green salt meadows of late summer with hues of red, yellow, and pink.

The death and decay of marsh plants provides the base of the wetland food web. Tidal flushing is the straw that stirs this nutrient-rich drink and spreads the detritus throughout the marsh and estuary. These enriched waters provide food for such permanent marsh residents as ribbed mussels, mud snails, fiddler crabs, shellfish, periwinkles, and numerous segmented worms. Bluefish, menhaden, and herring cruise the tidal creeks with the oncoming tide in search of food and most fish species of commercial importance spawn or spend early stages of their life cycles within the marsh-estuary ecosystem. Low tide exposes much of the marsh to the stalk-and-search activities of shore birds such as egrets, ibis, and clapper rail. Waterfowl, birds of prey, and fur-bearing mammals frequent wetlands in search of food and shelter.

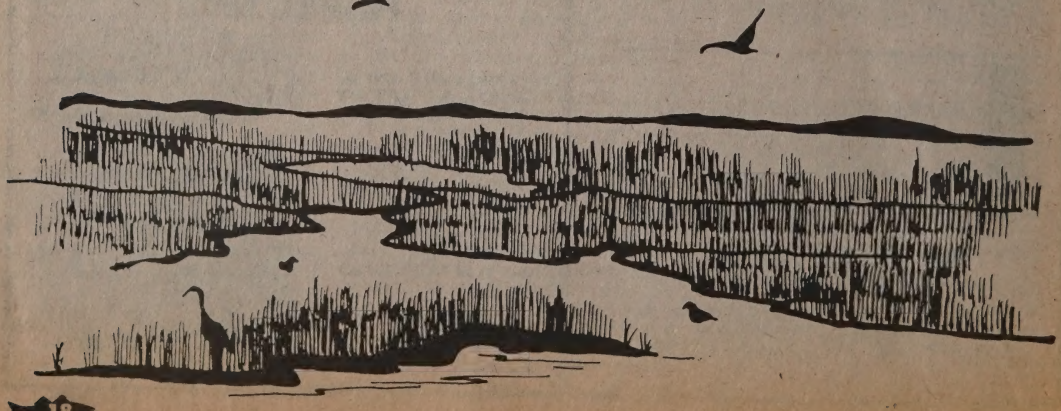
A day spent paddling along tidal creeks or walking about a marsh provides an opportunity to gain appreciation for the beauty and life that abounds within its borders. From the surface, a marsh appears silent, motionless except for the movement of water and the swaying of the grasses in the wind. Yet, just below our field of vision, the marsh is alive and well and doing what it has been for centuries.

Simply stated, the mud is where the action is, both above and below its surface. The essentials: food, shelter, and water are present there and so are the plants and animals comprising the marsh life system. Spread the grasses apart and peer down toward the substrate. Hundreds of fiddler crabs roam the marsh sweeping mud into their mouths, consuming the edible detritus and discarding the unused portions of mud in a line of tiny balls marking the trail to their burrows. Examine the **Spartina** stalks to find mud snails and periwinkles. They climb upwards in search of food as the tide waters rise. At low tide, hermit crabs and mud snails crawl about leaving grooves in the mud as they search for food. Blue crabs burrow in the creek bottoms while spider crabs move about on spindly legs, their carapace often a camouflaged home for algae and hydroids.

High tide summons numerous fish species, killifish, silversides, eels, and juvenile weakfish, flounders, and bluefish, find nourishment in the upper creeks and ponds reachable at times of high water. Barnacles, clustered together on the banks, project feather-like appendages in the water creating a current which brings food and oxygen to the animal. Deep within the mud layer live clams with siphons that extend to the surface taking in water and releasing wastes. Segmented polychaete worms with bizarre tentacles, gills, scales, and bristles have successfully adapted to life below the marsh surface by burrowing into the mud or living within a variety of tubes.

The value of tidal wetlands is well documented. They provide habitat, nursery grounds, and food sources for a great diversity of plant and animal species. Eugene Odom has shown that Georgia salt marshes can produce as much as ten tons of organic material per acre per year, a figure two-and-a-half times greater than the annual yield of our most fertile fields. Most of our commercially valuable fish and shellfish species are wetland dependent and include shrimp, salmon, oysters, clams, crabs, and menhaden. The Atlantic Coast wetland-estuary system is capable of producing up to 125 lbs. of commercial fish per acre. Wetlands also provide excellent breeding grounds for more than ten million waterfowl.

Wetlands provide a natural buffer from storm waters and floods by absorbing excess water into the peat layer and by slowing it as it passes between grass stems and leaves. Wetlands filter organics and pollutants and improve water quality



Pollutants in water circulated through a marsh are taken up by the plants and used as an additional nutrient source, while remaining pollutants filter through sand and mud. The Mill Creek marsh in the Hackensack Meadows in New Jersey has been recorded as removing 4-6% of the total nitrogen entering the marsh during a 12-hour cycle. This is significant because the numbers are equivalent to 2.8 to 5.7 times the quantity of nitrogen delivered by a nearby sewage treatment plant.

Tidal salt marshes are just one of the five principal types of wetlands. Others include mangrove swamps, fresh water marshes, swamps, and bogs. Mangrove swamps also exist in the saltwater environment and are found in southern Florida. The mangrove tree, one of a few woody plants able to withstand high salinities, has a complex root system rising out of the soil providing support for the trees. These roots also serve as places of attachment by marine organisms.

The two saltwater marsh types comprise only 10% of the total wetland acreage of the United States. The other 90% are freshwater wetlands. These marshes are usually covered with shallow water and are fed by streams, groundwater, runoff, and rain. They may be inland or in low lying areas adjacent to the coast. They are characterized by soft-stemmed plants such as cattails, grasses, sedges, arrowheads, and reeds. They provide habitat for waterfowl, bird species, fish, amphibians, and crustaceans.

Swamps and bogs are two types of freshwater wetlands. Swamps are often saturated in winter and spring but remain dry during the summer months. Like freshwater marshes, swamps develop in inland depressions, along ponds, lakes and the borders of streams. They differ because the vegetation is characterized by woody plant types such as white cedar, larch, red maple, ash, and willow.

Bogs are found most often in the glacial depressions of the northeastern and north central regions of the country. Drainage is so restricted that bogs receive little inflow and discharge little. Dead and decaying plant matter accumulates to form a thick, spongy peat layer. Sedges, leatherleaf, and insectivorous plants such as pitcher plants, sundews, and Venus flytraps grow within the peat mat and draw nutrients from the acidic water.

Until recently, wetlands carried the connotation of wastelands: malodorous, stagnant playgrounds for mosquitoes, swamp rats, and water snakes. A sports writer once labeled the Hackensack Meadows of New Jersey a suitable site for the mailing address of the Loch Ness Monster. (He was more interested in the football stadium there than in the wetlands wildlife.) Much maligned and misunderstood, wetlands have been destroyed at an alarming rate. Often they were filled to create fast land for residential and commercial development, landfills, and dumps. Half of the original wetland acreage of the lower forty-eight states has been lost; half of what remains has been so severely modified that its functional values are significantly impaired. Specifically, over 90% of southern California's coastal wetlands were filled during this century. In 1954, 24 million acres of "wet" bottomland forest existed in the south; less than four million acres remain today.

Perhaps more important is the loss of fish and wildlife resources as a result of wetlands destruction. Atlantic flyway duck populations have been cut in half over the last 30 years. Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey have experienced an 80% decrease in commercial fishery landings of estuarine-dependent species since 1920. The drainage of the prairie pothole regions of Minnesota and the Dakotas has depressed natural duck populations and has increased flood problems on prairie rivers.

The early effort for wetlands protection was initiated by private conservation groups, state, and local agencies. In 1963, Massachusetts became the first state to adopt legislation specifically aimed at regulating wetland use. Other Eastern states, almost in order down the coast to Florida, followed Massachusetts' lead. It was not until 1977 that the Federal Government began a comprehensive program to protect wetlands. Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 gave the Army Corps of Engineers the responsibility to regulate the discharges of dredged or fill material into all the waters of the United States, including wetlands. Historically, the Corps has been responsible for protecting, maintaining and enhancing the navigable waters of the United States since the enactment of the River and Harbor Act of 1899.

In 1968, the Corps included for permit review, fish and wildlife resources, conservation, ecology, pollution and other items of public interest. Several times during the 1970s, the Corps broadened and modified its definition of the type of waters it could regulate. These changes and others resulted in amendments to the Clean Water Act of 1977, Section 404 b(1) of these amendments established a permit program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill materials into the waters of the nation. It is with this authority that the Corps now regulates the use of wetlands.

The purpose of the permit regulations is to protect water quality from harmful dredge and fill discharges. The Corps jurisdiction extends to coastal and inland waters, to the headwaters of rivers and streams, and to lakes and the wetlands associated with each. Work proposed for any of

(Continued on next page.)

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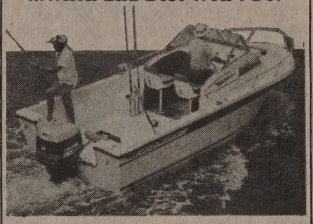

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these water areas is subject to the section 404 guidelines. Regulated activities include site fills for residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational developments, as well as roadway fills, construction of dams and dikes, levees, and the backfill required for sewage treatment plant construction. The most frequent requests for Corps permits are for the construction and maintenance of erosion protection structures such as bulkheads, groins, jetties, rip-rap, seawalls, and breakwaters.

Each section 404 permit proposal is evaluated in terms of four general criteria: 1) the extent of public and private need for the proposed structure or work; 2) the existence of alternate locations or methods; 3) the extent of the impacts, both beneficial and harmful; 4) the assessment of the cumulative impacts a project will create. Development in wetlands must also be determined to be water-dependent, requiring a waterfront location to function and have little if any impact on wetland resources.

Projects most often sought after by the public, such as bulkhead construction, filling, and dredging, require permits. Applications need to be completed and sent to the appropriate Corps district office. Requests for applications should be directed to the district engineer in the Corps office having jurisdiction in the area the work is proposed. The applicant receives an application form and a booklet providing instructions to complete the form. Upon receipt of the form the district office begins its review process.

The Corps is required by section 404 guidelines to issue a public notice for each permit application it receives, providing the applicant's name, the location of the project, and the type of work proposed. Comments on the project should be sent to the district engineer whose name and address appears on all notices. Public notices are sent only to those who have requested to have their names included on the Corps mailing list.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act directs the Corps to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the impacts of activities in permit applications. The comments by these Federal agencies advise the Corps but do not bind them to a decision. However, the Corps rarely issues a permit if these agencies recommend denial. The Environmental Protection Agency reviews and comments upon permit applications, is involved in policy and guideline development, and oversees the 404 program.

Public involvement during the comment period is essential. Increased participation by the public comes from an understanding of the regulatory process. The Corps cannot adequately establish the need for a proposed activity nor serve the public interest without public review and comment. The Corps presumes that any interested person or agency will respond to controversial public notices and a lack of response indicates that there is no objection to the work proposed. An opportunity exists for concerned individuals to work within the framework of the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction and to be a part of its decision-making process. The Corps gives every indication of being responsive to a public comment if it is offered in a timely and accurate fashion.

In spite of the recognition of the value of wetlands the pressure to develop them (often called "reclaiming") is intense. Slowly but steadily, wetland fringes are being encroached upon by small scale developments which in combination have a cumulative impact on this resource. Private need is clearly having an effect on Corps decisions. The time for public need to be adequately addressed has come. You can do this by writing the nearest Army Corps district office to get on the mailing list for public notices and assure that the process protects wetlands from future development and keeps them wet and productive.

But first, take a walk through a marsh and introduce yourself to its abundant life and beauty; it will be an educating and rewarding experience.

Montauk Report

by Stu Miller

Captain Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** called to say the inshore bluefishing and weakfishing at Shagwong and North Bar have been excellent this past week and weekend, trolling umbrellas. Blues were in the 5-8 lb. class and weaks in the 7-9 lb. class. Joe advises that he still has a few choice striper dates open for October. See ad for details.

Charter boat **Barracuda** reports the trip Goldie and friends, Port O'Call Pub, Great River on Saturday had 2 makos of 290 lbs. and 236 lbs. Lots of mako action offshore. The boat fished the Fingers, 25 miles southeast of the Point.

Charter boat **Montauk** on a trip Thursday boated 60 cod up to 25 lbs., 15 albies and a couple of jumbo bluefish. This trip was for Al Atkins and group from Liberty, NY.

Carl Darenberg at **Montauk Marine Basin** tells us that about 35-40 giant tuna were brought in during the last two weeks. Eleven were brought into the marina Thursday up to 600 lbs., 8 giants on Friday, 7 on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. Roy Kujhoski of Ithaca, NY bagged the 600 lber. All the action was south of Block Island.

Captain Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** on Sunday fished Lou Medent and group and had 325 lbs. of porgies at the Elbow and on the south side. In addition, Manuel Martanins took a 14 lb. fluke on a porgy rig.

Captain Chuck Mullinson of the charter boat **Joy Sea** called to say that in the last few weeks his charters have had 17 makos up to 189 lbs., 4 white marlin, numerous yellowfin tuna in the 80-90 lb. range, a host of longfin albacore, a 606 lb. giant tuna, a 425 lb. giant tuna just this past Tuesday plus loads of blues, weaks and one blue shark.

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** happily reports plenty of porgies for all fares with an average catch being 70 to 80 porgies a man on the **IV**. Fish are mediums/large and good porgy pullers are getting easily over 100 fish a trip with a few sea bass and fluke mixed in. A stray albie is also taken. Both day and night bluefishing trips are absolutely super to the tune of 20-30 fish a man, as long as the weather is good. Choppers are averaging 12-15 lbs. and pool fish are running 18-20 lbs. Night trips are all bait and chum while day trips are bait, chum and jigs. Please note that all bluefish tickets have been sold for September 26 on the **Marlin V**.

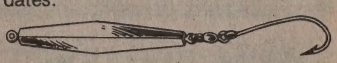
Captain Bud Dorman of the six man open boat **Waxed** reports that on Saturday, Cliff Felder of Brooklyn bettered his high hook mark of last week with a catch of 250 porgies and a few sea bass. Other anglers aboard went easily over the 200 mark. Bud reminds you to see his ad for the starting date of his striped bass trips. Porgy catches were made off the Lighthouse and fish are mostly mediums with a few jumbos mixed in.

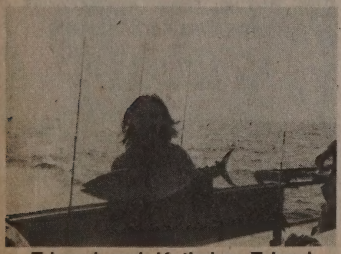
Gene Berkery shows part of a fine catch of school tuna and big blues made by himself, Bob Griffin, and Fred Carisi on the Montauk charter boat, "Sportfisher."

Mervin Peskin, Michael Grant and Michael Sanders of London, England with their limit of bluefin tuna taken at Montauk on the "Barracuda."

Captain John of the charter boat **Vivienne** tells us that these last two weeks, his charters have been doing a lot of casting for a mixed bag of weaks, blues, albies and bones with a few striped bass mixed in. We know that firsthand that casting to these fish is super sport.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports that the offshore giant tuna fishing for Linc Perros and group Wednesday scored with 3 small bluefin tuna ranging from 75 to 90 lbs. On other inshore trips during the week monster blues were bailed at Cartwright on bait and on jigs with smaller blues taken at the North Rips. Phil reminds his customers that the stripers will be at the Point shortly, so book early for October and November dates.





Edward and Kathalyn Erhard display Ed's 14 lb. 2 oz. fluke taken on an AM trip aboard the "Viking Starship."

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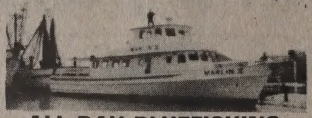

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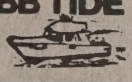

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South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

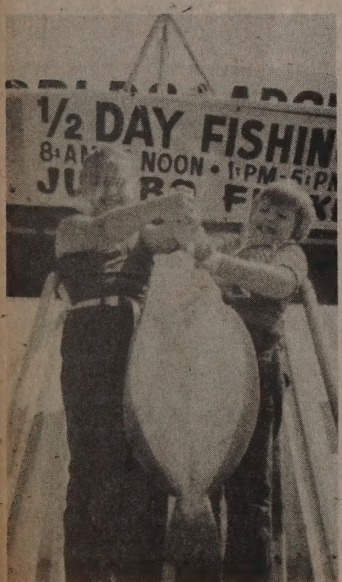
Editors note: A wet Saturday and wind Sunday kept angler turnout to a minimum this past weekend. South shore boatmen are finding Blackfish the best bet in the bays as fluke are on the wane and flounder are just beginning to establish themselves. Outside the inlets, the best bluefishing of the season is being found on wrecks within an easy ride of Fire Island Inlet.

HAMPTON BAYS

Speaking from **Coris Fishing Station** in Hampton Bays, John Mangino relayed word that the first flounder scores were made over the weekend in the Basket Area and off of the coast Guard Station on worms. Fluke and snappers are still around but not in any great numbers. Private boatmen have been trolling blues west of the Inlet on umbrella rigs.

MORICHES BAY

Still enough fluke to make it worth while according to Gary of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station**. On Saturday, Emil Ruter and Ed Dechen totalled 17 keepers on speaning, sand eels and squid at the Inlet. Lots of seabass on squid at buoy 39 and a mixed bag of



Fourteen-year-old Don Camillo, center, took the 18 lb. tuna he is holding on six pound test aboard the "Adios."

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John Devita Jr. and Mike Henry with 20 fluke taken at buoy 43 in Moriches Bay on sand eels and squid. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Live-Liners still taking a few big weaks at the WR Buoy. For freshwater fans, some big trout being taken in Connetquot Park and 14 to 20 inches fish in Bubbles and Rattles.

EAST ISLIP

Ireene, at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** had no reports on flounder, fluke, or weakfish due to the wet and windy weather. The only positive reports she could file concerned a good run of blackfish on the Kismet Reef. Use fiddler or green crabs.

BAY SHORE

Big weaks still being taken at the wreck buoy on live snappers and blackfish according to Carl Miller of **Smorey's Bait and Tackle**. A mix of porgies, sea bass and blowfish on squid and calms at Buoy 13, Ocean Beach and a few flounder starting in West Channel. Blackfish have been the big news with Carl himself, landing a 7 lber. on the weekend. No off-shore reports due to a big heave and just lousy weather in general.

The open boat Casey Lee, has been enjoying excellent blackfishein since the first trip on Friday. Hi-Hook on that trip was Barry Page with 34 porgies, seabass and flounder in the hole between Buoys 42 and 44. Gary noted that the water temperature in the bay has dropped several degrees in the bay had dropped several degrees in recent days.

At **Arullo Brothers Fishing Station**, Jack told me that fluke action continues to diminish and snappers are becomming scarce. The fall run of crabs is just getting started as are the flounder. Jack expects it will be about two weeks beford any real solid flounder fishing takes place. At Buoy 36, and off of the "Brown House", there is a mixed bag of flounder, seabass and blowfish.

MASTIC BEACH

Speaking from **Capt. Andy's Fishing Station**, Harry said that flounder fishing over the weekend was fair from buoy 25 to the bridge. Largest flattie weighed by Harry was 1.6 pounder. Some sea bass and blowfish are mixed in with the flounder. A couple of anglers were surprized by 2 lb. jacks which took worm baits. Crabs have been slow and some big snappers (10 to 12 inches range) are still around.

OAKDALE

Dave, at **J & R Sport Center** told of real fine blackfishing on the Kismet reef. Both fiddler and Green crabs will work on the tautogs. A few fluke remain at the Inlet, some flounder starting in teh pocket behind the sore Thumb and a mixed bag of porgies, Kingfish and seabass in the holes around East and West Islands.

The 53 lb. white marlin being displayed by Vinnie Pascale and Steve Bigora was taken on the Wingmaster in 150' of water, S.E. of Moriches Inlet. It was checked in at L&M Marina & Fishing Station.

BAYSHORE

BLACKFISH
7:45 A.M.
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70' OPEN BOAT
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tautogs. Bernard Krueger of Islip had 31. Frank Maddalena took Saturday's pool with an 8½ lber. According to skipper Neil Delanoy, both fiddlers vrabs and clams have been effective baits. He reminded that the boat will sail on Rosh Hashanah, Tuesday, September 29.

CAPTREE

Charter boat **Yankee III** enjoyed very good bluefishing on both Friday and Saturday nights. Fishing was done over a wreck located 15 miles south of Fire Island Inlet. Most fishermen had 8 to 10 coppers a piece. Day trips have been a mixed bag of fluke, porgies, seabass and blowfish.

On the **Sea Bird** Saturday, Capt. Ron Murray fished a party from Samson Machine Comp. working the Fire Island Ocean Reef, the group did a good job on sea bass averaging 2-3 pounds and big porgies. Largest sea bass weighed in at 5.9 lbs. fish were takin on skimmer clams and squid.

The **Lady Ann** cashed in on the blues hathered over offshore wrecks on both Thrusday and Friday nights. Saturday night, Rough seas resulted in a catch of only 50-60 choppers.

Seven-year-old Matthew Weiner took this 2¾ lb. trigger fish on the Kismet Reef. He checked it in at Peppy's Bait and Tackle in East Islip.

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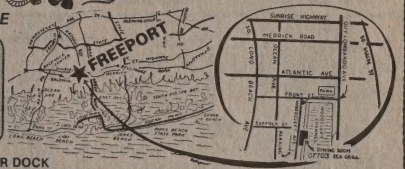

CHARTERBOAT APUS II SAILS FROM OUR DOCK

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Among the open boats, both the **Capt Whittlker** and **Capt Ben Litwin** have been doing a real good gob with blackfish from 1-3 lbs. (some bigger) on the Kismet Reef and bay wrecks. Some seabass, porgies and blowfish are mixed in.

The open boat **Captree Queen II** reported fan fluking during the week near the Inlet. Capt Gerdon Roman said he will continue fluking on a.m. trips and then switch to a mixture of fluke and flounder as waters cool. afternoon trips now Friday, Saturday and Sunday only. Bluefishing continues very good at night with most of the fishing being done over offshore wrecks south of the Inlet. The boat will continue sailing nigh blues 7 days a week. Fish range anywhere from 3 to 15 lbs. depending on the night.

Capt. Speedy Hubert, of the **Speedy VI**, reported excellent bluefishing on offshore wrecks. Most trips have seen fish range anywhere from 7 to 12 lbs. with an occasional 15 or 16 pounder soming aboard. Action is hot and its just a short ride from the Inlet. Both jigs and bait are working and a few albacore and bonito are mixed in.

BABYLON

Ski Kochanski of **Augies Bait & Tackle** dittoed the reports of very good blackfishing on the reef at Kismet. Ski knew that many boatman had between 2 and 3 dozen tautogs in the 1-3 lb. range. A good number of blowfish are mixed with them. As of Saturday, weaks were still being Live-Lined at the WR Buoy and small weaks were off Heckscher on squid strips. Fluke are about done and flounder are starting in the pocket behind the Sore Thumb. Ski heard that a couple of Giant Tuna were Hooked in the Mudhole on Saturday.

LINDENHURST

At **Lindenhurst Bait & Tackle**, Mike too spoke of fine blackfishing inside the bay this week. On Sunday, Gene and Vinny Arroyo fished Ocean Baech and wound up the day with 13 blacks between 2 and 6 lbs. they used fiddlers. Some weaks still being taken on Live snappers and blackfish near the wreck buoy. Flounder fishing just getting started with the best early action to the west around the Wantagh Bridges.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs of **Combs Bait & Tackle** knew that there has been some tuna action in the S.E. corner of the Mud Hole. Bluefishing at Cholera was good late in teh week on chum and bait.

CAPTREE

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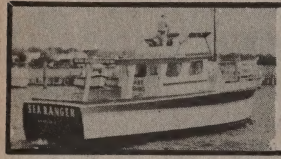

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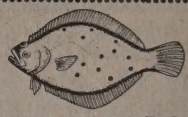

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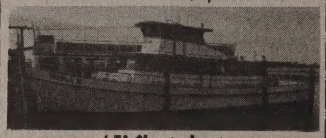

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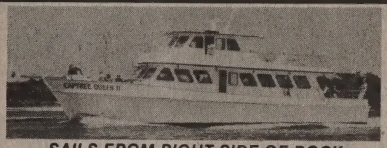

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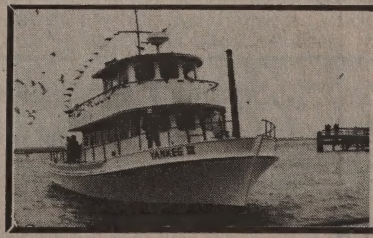

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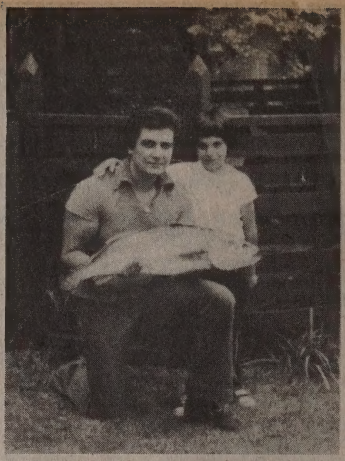
In the bay, blackfishing is best at the bridges and on the Kismet Reef. Use green crabs or fiddlers. Sea bass, porgies, and kingfish are available in the State Channel from Gilgo to Zachs Bay on clams or squid. Small but fat flounder at Gilgo and off of Fort Neck Point on worms and chum. Crabbing still good with traps but snappers are thinning out. Weaks at the bridges on sandworms, snappers and baby blackfish. A few big bass around on live eels.

SEAFORD

A good mixed bag of flounder, seabsdd, porgies, blackfish and kingfish in the area said Lon of **Wanser's Tackle Shop**. Massapequa Cove has been the hot spot with either worms or clams. Best blackfishing is at the bridges. Crabing last week was super on the flats opposite the second bridge. Some big weaks and Bass being Live-Lined at Blacks Bank and in Haunts Creek. Mike Rossi ran east to kismet on Saturday and returned with 26 blacks up to 3½ lbs. Most were 2 to 3 lbs. Same day, Walt Echoff chummed a load of bluels to 16¾ lbs. at 17 fathoms.

John, of **Pop's Fishing Station**, called to report a mixture of kingfish, porgies and seabass west of the Wantagh Bridges. Flounder action in the same area is on the upswing and blackfish are at the bridges. Crabbing is good with traps in Massapequa Cove On Saturday, Joe Kmiotek had a mixed catch of nearly 50 flounder, kingfish, blowfish and fluke.

Over at **Capt Eddies**, artie said that while fluke appear to be on the way out, Four Corners and Massapequa Cove contain a good mixed bag of seabass, blowfish, kingfish, flounder and progies. Don Barry had a nice mixed bag fishing the Cove on Sunday. Blacks at the bridges are very good with fiddlers accounting for the largest coatches. Frank and Pat Greco had two pails full on Sunday at the second Wantagh. Crabbing with traps in the canal out front continues good.



This 10 lb. 12 oz. weak was taken by LIF subscriber Victor Consiglio of Massapequa.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** told of very good flounder fishing in Merrick Bay. Fish are small but meaty and chum helps. Some kingfish, blowfish and seabass are mixed with the flatties. Blackfish are at the bridges and some fluke still around but most boatmen are'nt bothering.

MERRICK

Speaking from **Nicks Fishing Station**, Jimmy reported fluking was good up until Saturday with 5 to 7 keepers being the norm at Merrick Point and off of the Golf Cource. Flounder have improved in Broad Creek and Rowboat alley with on boat returning with 30 deepers on Saturday. Thursday and Friday were a bonanza at Cholera but avtion slowed for the weekend. George Buzzetta on the My Judy II fought and lost an estimated 800 lb. tiger shark during the week.

New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** tells of very good bluefishing all this past week and weekend both day and night (with decent weather) fishing to the southwest with blues up to 20 lbs. Pool fish for the week on the **BF II** was a 20 lb. gorilla caught by Ed Goodwin of North Merrick. High hook was Stan Umowsky with 14 slammers. This trip was for Hanover Bank. Days the fish are hitting both bait and jigs. Chum never hurts. Runner-up for the week was a 19 lb. blue decked Friday night. Over 300 blues were taken Friday night with some albies mixed in. Weather permitting should be a very good October for jumbo blues. Sunday the **BF II** enjoyed very good flounder action fishing east of Jones Inlet on worms.

Captain Richie on the **Starstream II** tells us that Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night, the boat had excellent catches of blues from 5-18 lbs. For those who fished hard, catches of 8-14 fish a trip was typical. Fish hit both jigs and bait during the day and just bait and chum at night. This has been at 17 Fathoms. In Sunday's sloppy conditions, there were no quantities taken but the fish that were caught were all big slammers.

The **Captain Al** says that due to the wind and the heave, only a few gorillas were picked at Cholera Sunday, but that Thursday, Friday and Saturday bluefishing action was very fast at the Cholera Banks with some fares having as many as 25 fish. Fish ran anywhere from 5-14 lbs. Monday saw a slaughter on a couple of offshore wrecks on big blues wiht

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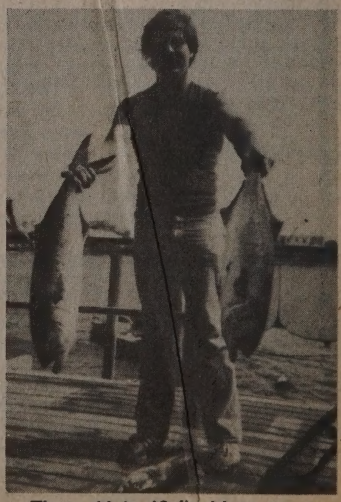
bones, albies and skippies mixed in. The nights have been very good at 17 Fathoms and Saturday night's trip was especially productive.

Lou's Fishing Station tells us that the flounder catches are picking up in the local creeks and at the Coast Guard Station and there are still fluke being caught with surprisingly good catches at the entrance buoy, live snapper working best. Also try fluke off the jetties at the Meadowbrook Bridge and on the ocean side, east of the jetty. Some weakfish still being caught in the waters off Point Lookout. There were 5 giant tuna hook-ups at Mud Hole west this week, with 3 boated up to 490 lbs. on Saturday. Albie and bonito being trolled in 80' to 90' of water.

The **Captain Gary** fished the Tight Lines Fishing Club, Floral Park Saturday for flounders. They had a good catch fishing local creeks and bridges on worms. Sunday's bluefish charter for Record World was changed into a bay fishing trip instead due to the rough seas. Pool winner and high hook was B. Draijin of Freeport. The skipper says he still has some prime October weekends available for blues and flatties.

Captain Andy of the **Miss Freeport** had good flounder catches Monday and Thursday as to quantity fishing local spots. Saturday the boat had a charter for blues and fished 17 Fathoms. A 21 lb. blue copped the pool for Irving Kornberg of North Bellmore, working a diamond jig. Catches were mostly on bait and chum and there were a lot of 6-8 lbers. taken plus a couple of bonito.

The **Capt. Lou Fleet** reports excellent flounder catches this week. Aboard the full day boat, high hooks were in the 30s to 40s, with fish up to 2½ lbs. Plenty of sea bass and porgies mixed in, plus a few fluke,



These 11 to 13 lb. blues were taken by Charles Bolte on live bunker in Jamaica Bay. Photo courtesy of J-Bay Boat Rentals.

Pretty Tara Rogers caught this 13 lb. blue on a live bunker near the Atlantic Beach bridge. It was weighed at Long Beach Sports Marina.

kings and blowfish. The fleet's half day boat is also cashing in on this fall mixed bag fishing with high hooks of flounder in the 20s, with sea bass and porgies mixed in.

Captain Pat of the charter boat **Lady J III** reports that Monday's trip for Oak Rock Lodge, NJ, fished the bay for a mixed catch of fluke and sea bass. Best action was in Reynolds Channel and the inlet. A couple of 2 lb. sea bass have been mixed in. Friday's trip for the Suffolk Branch of Chicago Title Insurance Company fished 17 Fathoms and had 175 bluefish up to 17 lbs. on bait and chum. Saturday's trip for Kleeban Tool Co., Westbury took 85 blues up to 17 lbs. at 17 Fathoms on bait and chum. Sunday's charter for the Hicksville Sears Repair Department had a pick of blues amidst terrible sea conditions. A 15 lber. took the pool.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports the best catch of the week was 35 mixed flounder, sea bass, blacks and porgies taken by one skiff that fished Merrick Bay during the week on bloodworms and clam.

Captain Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** who is now three-quarter day flounder fishing reports that he's been getting very good catches fishing locally with fish from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. on worms and clam.

The **Captain Bill** sailing his two half-day flounder trips daily tells us the flounder are starting, with a lot of participation from blacks, sea bass and porgies. Trips are all in local creeks and bridge abutments.

The **Aloma II** is catching mixed bags of porgies, sea bass and blackfish on a daily basis. Saturday's trip, said Captain Paul was an outright slaughter on an offshore wreck and the body count was an average of 40-50 fish a man. Blackfish ran to 3 lbs. and sea bass and porgies up to 2 lbs.

Freeport Boatmens Association reports that the **Super Spray II** is now switching over to flounder on their

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two trip a day schedule. The boat's scheduled Oct. 4 cod wreck trip is 3/4 booked and there is a strict 60 man limit on this trip. The Association boats that have been bluefishing have been enjoying very good catches of 10-15 lb. choppers at 17 Fathoms. On Sunday, most of the boats did flounder on the inside with good catches not far from the dock on worms. Please note that the Super Spray II has just started up a program for giant tuna sailing 5:30 a.m. every Wednesday as an open boat.

Captain Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service Acme II** reports a bluefish slaughter on bait and chum for Chicago Title Insurance Company, fish up to 18 lbs. Another trip for the West Hempstead Fire Dept. also had a lot of bluefish action on bait with smaller fish. Jim Brown's group of Stone Ridge, NY also had blues at Cholera. Chum and bait seem to be the ticket now. Walt says he has a lot of weekdays open and also Oct. 11, due to a sudden cancellation.

BALDWIN

Jan at **Thompson's Deli & Fishing Supplies** reports a good catch Saturday by Cy Kotch on his boa 'Lil Extra in Scow Creek. Cy had 6 fluke averaging 1¾ lbs., 4 flounders of 1½ lbs. each, 12 sea bass in the 1 lb. category. This was all on the ebb on worms and squid.

Mike at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that one of his marina boats **Nancy** had a mixed catch of 81 flounder, 11 blacks, 2 porgies, a fluke and 3 blowfish on worms and chum in Reynolds Channel and at the Meadow Brook bridge. Rick Barrett scored with 35 sea bass and a few porgies fishing Reynolds on worms. Lots of flounder catches being made in Reynolds at buoy 17, fish from ½ to 1 lb.

POINT LOOKOUT

Charter boat **Marie III** called to say that Tuesday's trip fishing SE of Cholera trolled albie on red and white and also yellow and green feathers, fish 4-5 lbs. Saturday's charter worked a local ocean wreck and had good blackfishing for fish up to 4 lbs., sea bass to 3 lbs. and a scattering of porgies. They also took a 6 lb. fluke and at the boat an estimated 10 lb. fluke was dropped. This catch was all on clam bait. Sunday's trip worked Reynolds, Sea Dog Creek and the Meadowbrook bridge area for flounder up to 2 lbs. with an additional catch of fluke, sea bass, blacks, porgies and kings, all on clam. The skipper says slack water at the Meadowbrook bridge was the most productive.

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** reports good flounder catches were made this week at the Coast Guard Station and in Swift Creek on worms. Some fluke still being picked up all along Reynolds Channel on squid and killie combos. Sea bass in all the channels up to 1½ lbs. on worm and clam. The T wreck and all the bridges are harboring big blackfish populations which are hitting fiddlers and green crabs. Very good snapper fishing on high water in the local creeks and channels.

An abundance of sea bass is the way Ed Wardell of **Ed's Fishing Station** described the activity on these tasty critters. Also very good blackfishing at the Meadowbrook, Long Creek and loop bridges and the jetties on fiddlers and green crabs. Ed says he saw no fluke brought in this weekend but did see a lot more porgies come in. Middle Bay has been alive with snappers. A few good flounder catches being made in the deeper water at the Meadowbrook bridge.

ISLAND PARK

Captain Klem of the **Commodore** is now flounder fishing Saturdays and Sundays. The skipper says he has nice flounder catches Saturday with a

Joyce Saganic shows the 15 lb. albacore she jigged aboard the "Helen H" on recent trip out of Sheepshead Bay.

scattering of sea bass and porgies included. Ten-year-old Gary Stephenson put in a good day's work with 28 flounder plus a few porgies and sea bass. The flounder went 3/4 to 1½ lbs. with a lot of 1 lbers. Many fares had catches in the 20s. Eight fluke were also picked. This was all in Reynolds Channel. Excellent mixed bag fall fishing, said the skipper.

Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook tells us that blues and weaks are still being taken at the Tin Can and big blues are the order of the day at 17 Fathoms and Cholera with a strong scattering of bones and big albies. It's mostly bait for the albacore while jigs and bait are scoring with the bluefish. If dead killies are sprinkled in with the chum this helps the bonito and albacore catch tremendously. Thursday, Friday and early Saturday there was good fluking in Jones Inlet as the fish continue to move seaward. Blackfish are in solid at all the rocks and bridge areas. Some bass being taken from the Atlantic Beach surf on Gibbs Darter plugs. Bass on clam chum under the Meadowbrook at night. A 30 lb. striper fell to a chunk bunker at West End 2 in the early morning hours during the week.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Captain Ron Lepper on the charter boat **Kim** called to say the giant tuna fishing at Mud Hole west has been picky but the fish are there and some big ones are being caught. It's a matter of being at the right place at the right time. Bluefishing has slowed off Jersey, but there are now a larger number of fish up to 20 lbs. being taken at 17 Fathoms on bait, chum and also on jigs.

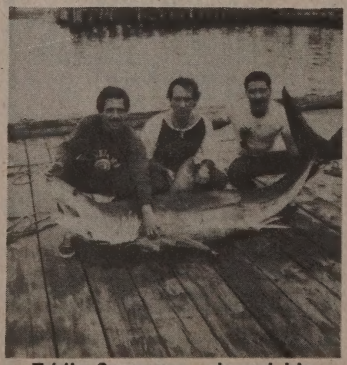
Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** tells us the blackfishing at the Atlantic beach bridge has been very good as it has also been at the Silver Point jetty with fish up to 3 lbs. on fiddlers and clams. Fluking has dropped off but flounders are starting to make their appetites known in the bays and creeks and are going up to 2 lbs. on occasion. Saturday aboard the private boat Emme with Tony Siniscalchi, Chris Vitucci, Warren Sicherman and Bob Corbelli onboard, Bob hooked and landed a 494 lb. giant tuna which was weighed in at Reynolds Reef Fishing Station. This was at the Mud Hole. In the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club Bluefish Tournament this weekend, first place went to Vic Genduso, Captain of the Four Queens with a 17 lb. 4 oz. blue. Second place went to Fred Hill, owner of the Four Qeens with a 14 lb. 3 oz. blue.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina tells of excellent flounder catches on the weekend with rentals returning with an average of 20 flatties a boat, best areas being buoy 1 Reynolds, cement block and the area behind Duck Point on bloodworms. Chumming is a big help and fish hit all day. They ran up to 1½ lbs. A few kingfish, sea bass and porgies taken in the same area also on worms. A few fluke still around, best off the Long Beach hospital on live killies. John Randolph had 12 keeper fluke up to 2½ lbs. on a flooding tide. Blackfishing remains excellent at the Atlantic Beach Bridge, the railroad trestle, the gong buoy and the 28th street wreck. On fiddlers and greens. Weakfishing has dropped tremendously in the bays. Some bass being chummed at the Atlantic Beach Bridge, schoolies. Nick Sevine , Frank Collington and Weezer Spellman scored with 45 blues to 18 lbs. fishing bunker chunks 20 miles SE of Jones.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle tells us



Eddie Sanerneo, aboard his Meant To Be, with Andy Iovino and Joe DiRaffaele, took this 250 lb. mako at the HA buoy. It was checked in Stella Maris Fishing Station.

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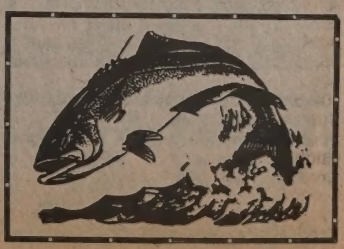

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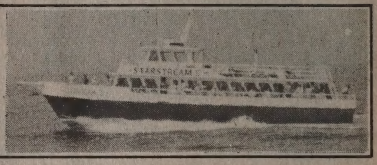

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that on Friday Frank Tuso scored with a 9½ and a 12 lb. blue from the North Channel bridge at the top of the tide on a bunker strip. On Tuesday, Joe Rollis and Dominic Peppaceno took 17 blacks on an ebbing tide from 1-2½ lbs. from the north channel bridge on fiddlers. Both bridges are producing decent catches of porgies and some flounder on clam and worm.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Walt on the **Flamingo III** tells of some gorilla blues during the week. Fridays and Saturdays very good catches of blues saw fish caught up to 18 lbs. at 17 Fathoms which were brought in by the big easterlies the early part of the week. Both jigging and baiting did the trick. On Sunday, smaller bluefish were taken locally along with a few stripers from 6-8 lbs. Fall fishing is starting to take place. A few large weakfish were taken early in the week and things look very promising for upcoming striper activity. The best fishing of the year will be seen in these coming weeks. A lot of bonito and albies are mixed in. Thursday saw Paul Villare with a double-header of 8 lb. class weakfish. Paul was from Astoria.

Charlie at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** reports excellent bluefishing on the day and night trips to 17 Fathoms on Vike and A27 lures. Fish are mixed sizes. Blackfishing has been very good off the Jersey rocks and also in Jamaica Bay, fish from 2-6 lbs. on fiddlers and greens. Good fluking continues all through this past weekend. Best action on the red side of Ambrose. A lot of fish but not as big as before. These are in the 1-3 lb. class. Big blues off the beach at the college on bunker chunks, plugs and metal. Also try Norton's Point on chunk bait.

Captain Kevin of the **Dorothy B** reports his fares had a super Monday and Tuesday on fluke of good size at the channels. Wednesday and Thursday were bummers with the wind and rain but Friday bounced back as did Saturday with good fluking. Sunday was a tough day due to the monster winds. One man had 30 keeper fluke Friday. Fish are running from midgets to 5 lber. with 80 percent of the fish keepers.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop tells us that weakfish are being caught in the surf from sunup to around 8AM at New Dorp Beach, Cedar Grove and Oakwood on either live snapper or live bunker, Danny swimmers or Hopkins. These weaks are running 8-12 lbs. Occasional blues from 3-5 lbs. are being taken along with a few 10-15 lb. gorillas. At night, Cliff St. is producing schoolie bass on outgoing water on sand worms. Daytime there's plenty of snappers, lafayettes and porgies in Great Kills Harbor in abundance. Blue claw crabs in Great Kills Harbor and Stapleton piers 8,

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12, and 17. Boat fishermen working 1/4 mile off Oakwood have been taking big blues up to 17½ lbs. trolling single tubes or baby bunker spoons or livelining bunker. School bass have been taking drifted sand worms on outgoing tide best at the VZ bridge, Hoffman and Swinburne Islands. Buoy 14 at Princess Bay channelhas been good for anglers drifting sand worms for bass. Live bunker is also working as is deep trolling with red or green single tubes.

North Shore Report

by Martin Garrell

NEW ROCHELLE

John Palmieri at **Johns's Gun & Tackle** told us of the success of local bunker chunkers prior to the week-end. There are 15-21 lb. blues plus some hefty bass in the area. The hottest day on bass was the day after the full moon. Robert Aurisy had a 36-pounder but some 40's and 50's have been taken. Blackfish are beginning their fall run with smaller fish showing at first. Local boys, Vince Assogna and son Vince, jr., made good aboard the **Jacqueline** with a 403 lb. giant tuna off the Mudhole.

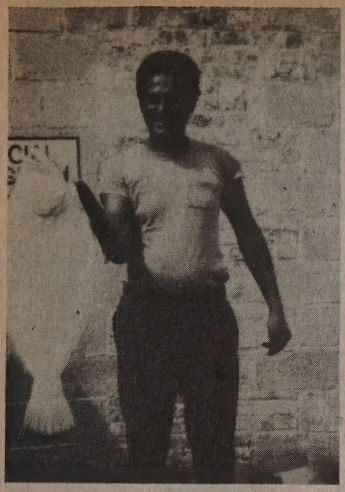
CITY ISLAND

Greg Warner at **City Island Bait & Tackle** told us of teen sized bluefish on bunker chunks off Execution. Rebels are still Pulling schoolie bass at night. Jack Rumpf at **Jack's Bait & tackle** weighed a 20½ lb gorilla bluefish for Reggie Amato last Wednesday. A lot of 12-14 lb. slammers have been taken on snagged bunker. There are still porgies in the area, but blackfish have started off Fort Slocum, Hart's Island, and the CBS Tower. snappers are nice sized now.

Pete Anderson of the **North Star** has been finding weaks along with 2-3 lb. porgies in the deep water of teh Sound for mid-week fares when crowds are small. On the weekend, he's been working on large schools of ½ to ¾ lb. Scup east of Lloyds. There will be a gradual change to blackfish now, althrough anglers should remember that the prime time will be in October.

GLEN COVE

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** mentioned schoolie bass to 10 lbs. off Matinnicock and Peacock Points, and also said that fishermen were killing blues in Manhasset and



John Ambrosio clicked with this 13 lb. 6 oz. doormat in the rips off of Eaton's Neck. It was weighed at Four Winds Bait & Tackle in Huntington.

Hempstead Harbors at times. Thursday night was a massacre from Morgan's Jettyu South to Bar Beach. George Schim showed up with 28 choppers to 12 lbs. Snappers were holding up and serious flounder fishing had begun. Blackfish angling off the Sea Cliff Rocks was spotty.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's** saw some blues in the high teens on Saturday morning off Cold Spring and on Friday off Targer Rock. Live bunker was the ticket. Small blues were available inside the Lilco Platform and around the Obstruction Buoy. Bass to 15 lbs. have also been jigged in the area.

George Valentine at the **Four Winds** said that there were decent blackfish to 5 lbs. off Marshall Field with progies bu buoy 13. Some 1½ lb. scup were in that group. Blues around Buoy 13 are small fish between 2-4 lbs., but trolling south ofbuoy 13 in the rip can produce blues to 13 lbs.

Packy Collins said that the **Ever Ready** enjoyed some success over the weekend. Friday night and Saturday morning were good, while Saturday night was a slow pick and Sunday was only average. Anglers previously spoiled by 18-25 fish catches were seeing up 9 blued per man on Sunday in 25 knot winds with outgoing water. Blues are 2-5 lbs. with occasional fish to 8 lbs., bonito, and a few 4-5 lb. bass. Three ounces Tiger-strilped Trifin jigs are the hot lures, although 2 oz. jigs could work for experts. Collins expects to stay with jigging for bass later and will do some blackfish angling on slack water periods. Night fishing may be over after this coming weekend.

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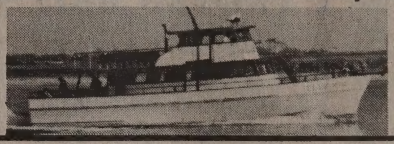

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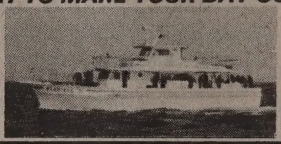

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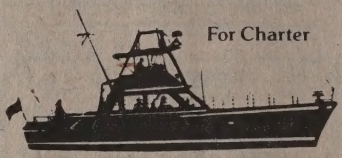

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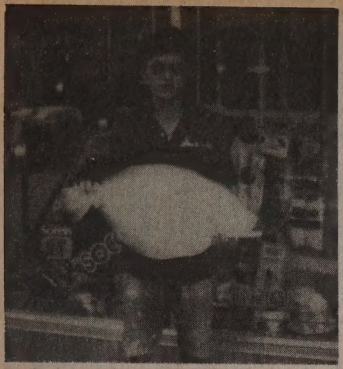
North Fork Report

by Martin Garrell



Jaesoon Yoon weighed in this 9 lb. 4 oz. fluke at Bowman's Tackle Shop. It was taken in the rips at Eaton's Neck.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman was looking at a typical fall picture at **Bowman's**. There were blues, porgies and a ferw blacks off buoy 13 with some flounder starting, and with 10'' snappers in the harbor.

KINGS PARK

Helen Koliner at **O.K. Bait & Tackle** saw some nice bluefish activity at the Mouth of the River just beford the winds blew Saturday. Fish were 4-5 lbs.

PORT JEFFERSON

John Caraftis at the **Caraftis Fishing Station** told us that there were ''still a million bluefish'' out by buot II whenever you could get to them. Fish were typically 3-pounders. Oldfield was still the hot spot for larger progies, while sands dominated the harbors. There were plenty of snappers in the area, but fluke and bass fishing were poor.

John Fisher was still pounding away at porgies with the **Aqua-gem** off shoreham. There was a pickup in sizes with Sunday's pool winner going 2¼ lbd. High hook Sunday was 176 scup. Fisher will be swinging over to blackfish within the next 10 days-2 weeks.

MOUNT SINAI

Dick Brown at **Dick's Sporting Goods** felt that there were still a lot of fish around, but nobody was trying for them. Most of the blues off Miller Place are 8-10 lbs., but a 21 lb. alligator was weighed this week. this is the time for bunker chunks. There are lots of porgies, and blackfish are showing all over.

AQUEBOGUE

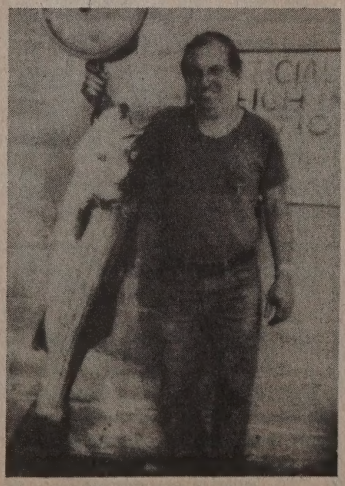
Nick Cyprus at **Warren's** said that blackfishing was excellent off the northville Pipe and on both sides of the Mattituck Inlet. Some 4-5 lb. tautog can be found ¼ to ½ mile off the beach. Hermit crabs are preferred bait. There are still 1½ to 2 lb. blues off the Motel and off Buoy 5; rumors of bigger blues off Horton's go unconfirmed. Pan sized porgies can be taken on soft baits off the Inlet.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria at **Captain Marty's** said that the weaks and porgies were ''still here'' with one catch on Saturday including 6 weaks to around 4 lbs. plus 120 porgies for two men. The Radio Tower and Buoy 22 were the best bets mentioned by Newt Robbins at **Captain Jim's**. Newt felt that most weaks were 2-2½ lb. and that best results were obtained by anchoring and fishing squid or shiners on high hooks for the weakfish. Fluke were in the bags off Nassau Point roughly two thirds of the time and kingfish of 1 lb. were showing in porgy catches.

SOUTHOLD

Coe Harris at **Southold BAit & Tackle** was seeing more bass from teh South Shore thatn from local waters.



Artie Stone took this 36 lb. striper on a trolled plug at Eaton's Neck back in June. It was weighed at Four Winds Bait and Tackle in Huntington.

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Chris Murtha, Chris and Eric Beighley, and Kai Ovesen with an outstanding catch of 49 fluke made at the Elbow in Moriches Bay on spearing and squid combos. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine.

Things were quiet with an emphasis on scalloping season, beginning Monday.

Jim Dunkirk at the **Port of Egypt** mentioned scattered porgies in South-old Bay off Buoys 16,17 and South Ferry. Kingfish were mixed with Jessups and Middle Grounds catches. The Greenlawns and the Brickyark were producing blackfish to 2-3 lbs. Beford the bad weather hit at week's end, Blackfishing off the Lighthouse at Orient Had been on the upswing.

GREENPORT

Art White at **A. P. White's Bait Shop** described a slaughter of porgies off New London for the open boats, **Brand X** and **Peconic Star.** White felt that he'd "just iced up a ton of porgies" over the weekend. Blackfish are off Gull Island and snappers can be found off local docks. Although bluefish action is good and there are some bass in the Gut, the disappearance of sand eels from Orient Shoal has led to the collapse of the fluking there.

Richie Jensen has been into bluefish all week on the **Nancy Ann.** Jensen sees a new body of blues with lots of herring to work on off Gardiner's. Problem is that the fish move and are one day here, one day there. These blues are large, 8-15 lb. fish and are taken on diamonds. A few bass from 15 lbs. on down are available on bucktails in the Gut, along with some 10-15 lb. blues. Action on bluefish in Pigeon Rip and the Race is sporadic.

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SINKER BOUNCING:

(Continued from page 8.)

some answers to fluke habits that I have wondered about. Maybe, like me you can use a few or all to help you on those slow days, too. Now let's both go out there and give the fluke hell.

Sincerely yours,
Vinny Paul Badame''

How about that?

I believe it is really too late in the season to use any of Vinny's experiments right now. But next year, I know one fisherman who will give them a try—me. And I've got a feeling that I've come to the days when I can now go fluke fishing without the use of costly chum or spending the war debt on fuel while running around all over the bay making drift after drift.

As I've written many times in fluke fishing articles, fluke lie in lanes. I know that when I find one I always work it to a fare-thee-well. But now it seems all I shall have to do is drift until the first fluke is caught and then anchor up and get that killie-bottle overboard. What could be simpler than that?

Thanks, Vinny, you are indeed a good sportsman—and an excellent fisherman to boot.

South Fork Report

by Stu Miller

SHINNECOCK

The **Captain Clark II** called to say that its last ocean wreck trip was a huge success. With Captain Clark Bellows, Jr. at the wheel all fares caught sea bass and blackfish along with large porgies and several big fluke. Sunday's wreck trip had to return early due to high winds and rough seas but even so some sea bass and blacks were caught prior to the return trip. The boat will make another set of ocean wreck trips again Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26 and 27.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** informs us that the flounders have started in the channel and in Noyac Creek. Worms and clam are working equally well. Don't forget that the Station is closed Wednesdays.

SAG HARBOR

Captain Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** tells us that the porgy fishing at New London has been ''beyond your wildest dreams.'' It's been fantastic, Artie said, weather permitting. Clam, squid, and worms have all done the trick. Fish are mostly mediums to jumbos and are hitting on all tides. It's just a matter of how fast you can pull them in, rebait and get down again which determines the number of fish a man takes home. Fares are filling anywhere from 1 to 2 big buckets each. Blackfishing was very slow last week, with the water temperature still just a drop too high. More porgies than blackfish were caught while blackfishing.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

Montauk was again the scene of some hot surf fishing on the weekend and casters here fared much better than those working the rest of the Island's beaches. That's not to say that fish weren't caught at other places. Big blues were sprinkled along north shore beaches for those tossing bait and on the West End of the Island, there were bass and blues riding herd on schools of mullet

moved out of south shore bays by last week nor'easter. Here are the results of Monday's round of phone calls.

Speaking from **Long Beach Sports Marina,** Bernie Haag told of fish busting into mullet and bunker from Pt. Lookout to the Silver Point Jetty on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Her and there, they came within range of anxious casters. One surfman who preferred to remain anonymous, checked in a catch of seven teensize stripers. All were taken on plugs from the middle of Long Beach. Bernie added that plenty of bunker were still in evidence on the weekend.

There were scattered reports of a few big bass in the vicinity of west end last week but no one was advertising any details.

In the Gilgo-Cedar area, the only fish being taken are an occasional blue or an infrequent bass on live eels. I did manage 1 school bass on a popper at Gilgo during the week but was blanked on several subsequent visits despite an abundance of mullet moving down the beach.

Robert Moses Field 3 continues to produce a couple of small blues but nothing worth getting excited over.

Reports between Fire Island and Montauk were difficult to come by so we'll move right along to Montauk.

Johnny Kronuch had an impressive list of weigh-ins waiting when I called. Some of those who clicked with stripers on the weekend were John Skidmore who had a 26 lber., Bob Teiderman with a 34, Pete Furmann a 37, Mark Reuschle a 26, Bruce Tuma a 20 and Charlie Ruga a 28 lber. Weakfish from 4-7 lbs. dominated the action and some blues to 10 lbs. were mixed in as well. Most of the action was concentrated up front with Saturday far and away the best night. Some fish were taken on Friday and Sunday nights too, however.

Several members of the Striper Surf Club timed their "Montauk trip" just right. Mike Kaland, who handles the publicity chores for the group, said that Saturday night's efforts resulted in 16 weaks in addition to a couple of blues and a few bass up to 14 lbs. Fish were taken on both white and yellow darters. Bottle plugs worked as the tide slacked off.

On the North Shore, big blues were scattered along western Sound beaches where they were being taken on bunker chunks.

The same bait has been accounting for a few fish at Caumsett State Park. Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnies Bait and Tackle** in Huntington weighed fish of 5 and 10 lbs. for a caster on Monday morning.

To the east, Stan told me from his **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** that the picture has not changed much although a few school bass are beginning to show along local beaches. Three to five lb. blues are still hit or miss on tin and few 12 to 15 lb. choppers are down at Shoreham on bunker or mackerel chunks.

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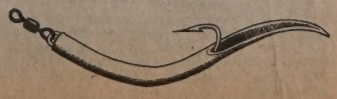
NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 5.)

regulations would be determined by the health of the stock and the needs of the domestic fishermen. At the same time, U.S. fishermen will still be bound by ICCAT restrictions. It has been argued that the unilateral extension of fishery management authority to tunas is inconsistent with ICCAT provisions and threatens the continued existence of ICCAT. Neither assertion seems to have much merit.

In the first place, ICCAT 'authority' extends only to the high seas. In the second, regardless of what actions member nations take with respect to their own waters, some form of authority is required in international waters. Moreover, there will in all events be a continuing need for the framework which ICCAT provides for joint research by nations having an interest in the resource."

Senator Weicker goes on to note that voluntary agreements with the Japanese longliners have not worked, and that Canada also purse seines 350 tons of bluefins from our waters each year—though U.S. tuna fishermen cannot fish north of the border. This important legislation needs your support. Urge senators not already signed up as co-sponsors to do so. Still missing from this area are Senators Moynihan and D'Amato of New York, Senator Williams of New Jersey, Senator Biden of Delaware, and Senator Dodd of Connecticut.



FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *THE FISHERMAN'S* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read along with your check or M.O. for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 30-cents per word with a 15 word ($4.50) minimum. Subscribers to *The Fisherman* receive a *Fifty-percent DISCOUNT* if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 15-cents per word with a 15 word ($2.25) minimum. *Discounts for extended runs:* 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times,15%. To run a photo with ad, non-subscribers add $10, subscribers $5.

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'77 BLACKFIN Combi 24', 81 FWC 270 h.p. Loaded w/equipt. $17,500. Eves. 516-581-1133.

24' SEA RAY Hardtop, 1976 225 OMC I/O, camper top, VHF, recording DF, rod holders. All equip. Immaculate cond. $5800. 516-473-4975 Eves.

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12' thru 22 Aluminum skiffs, consoles & cuddies in stock for demonstration & delivery. Authorized Evinrude financing. DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 1810 North Sea Rd., Southampton, NY. 516-283-6736.

1979 CARVER 23' 228 Mercruiser, VHF, CB, DF, compass, 110 dockside, galley, alcohol & elec. stove, head w/holding tank. Low hrs. Camper top. Sleeps 4; plus extras. Mint cond. $14,000. 516-226-6895.

'80 ROBALO R2160 twin 115 Merc. 1981 w/power trim cuddy cabin, head. Fully equipped; used only 1981 about 35 hrs. Dockage paid to end Oct. Asking $18,000. Owner moving. 516-725-0439.

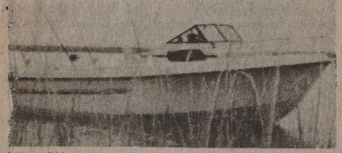
26' MAC KENZIE Cuttyhunk Bass boat '67 model, FWC Chrysler. Dual controls. Excl. cond. Flasher & CB, at Deep Sea Yacht & Racquet Club, Montauk. Contact Dockmaster Bob Darenberg. 516-668-2166 Days. Best offer.

19' GLASTRON 1974 Center Console, 115 h.p. Evin., S/S Prop., CB, compass, Bimini top, 1979 trailer. Economical. After 6PM. $3995. 212-631-5351.

WELLCRAFT V-20 Fisherman. 1972 w/1979 Chrysler outboard. Custom built extras. Excl. shape & running cond. $3500. Days 212-686-1818, Ext. 210.

SACRIFICE

1976 27' Sport-Craft. Economical Twin 6 cyl. FWC Volvo engines. Fully equipped. $14,500. Call after 6PM. LT 9-4720.



SEA OX 20' '9 23' Walkaround cuddy. Avail. inboard or outboard; 17'-23' models avail. Center console or comm'l. Largest Sea Ox & Stamas Phoenix dealer on L.I. Phoenix avail. gas or diesel inboard, twin, single or outboard. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, 23 River Rd., Sayville, N.Y. 516-567-3313.

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1977 SEACRAFT New in '78; 233 Mercruiser 500 hrs. Si-Tex Loran C & recorder; VHF, CB, chair, outriggers, SeaTemp gauge. New top; in water at Montauk. 914-246-9046.

1969 22' AQUASPORT center console w/1973 135 h.p. Johnson; S.S.T. Prop, straight line recorder, Ritchie compass. Boat at Cove Marina, Montauk. Will demo. Weekends. $3500. 516-668-3231; 516-868-8798.

Classic "Dowie" Sportsfisherman 26' 283 Chevy V8, 80 gal. Monel tanks, Lovitt pump. Fish well, fighting chair, outriggers, flybridge. A fuel efficient offshore fishing boat. $7777. 516-281-9897.

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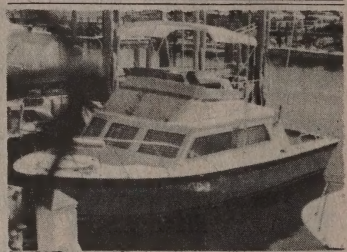
1974 CHRIS CRAFT Lancer 23', 350 Chevy, Volvo outdrive. New 85 gal. gas tank, VHF, CB, digital depth recorder. Pompanette Fighting chair; outriggers. Dual batt. w/switch; marine head; 3 compasses. Fast & economical. Great for bay/offshore. In water; excl. cond. $7900. 516-798-1242 or 516-599-6528.

25' x 9' 9" CHRIS CRAFT Lancer Sportsman 1970 230 h.p. I/O, VHF, CB, recorder, gin pole, chair, outriggers. Excl. $8000. Days. 212-786-5734.



1972 LUHRS 28' 225 FWC 1979. Galley, VHF, DF, riggers & more. Mint. $11,500. Eves: 516-543-7725 Days: 516-883-5100.

1977 WINNER, SF, 21', 140 OB, CB, Porta-Pottie, Cuddy Cabin. Low hrs; perfect cond. Like new. East Hampton Marina, 516-324-4042, or call collect evenings 203-762-7033.

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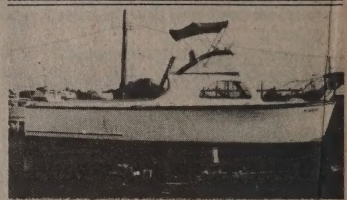

1961 30' PACEMAKER Sportfisherman 1980, 225 h.p. OMC; new Hynautec steering, VHF, CB, depth sounder. Loaded w/extras. In water & will demo. Excl. cond. Must sell. $5000. 212-456-9171.

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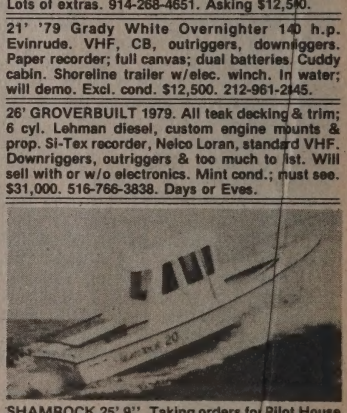

SHAMROCK 25' 9". Taking orders for Pilot House or Open Fisherman. Cuddy Cabin. Gas or diesel. Shamrock 20' also in stock. New 1982s due in. ROVINA, 516-728-0922.

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EGG HARBOR 36', '62 Sedan fisherman. New paint. Super clean. New canvas, twin 350 Crusader FWC. New fall '80; VHF, CB, recorder. Outriggers, fish chairs. Commercially documented 6-man charters. $18,000. Wkdays, 516-798-7531.

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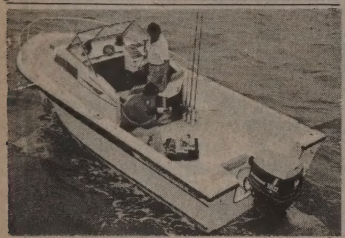

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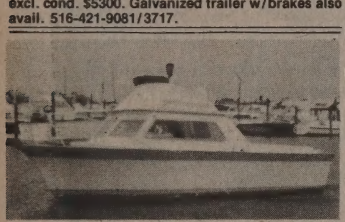
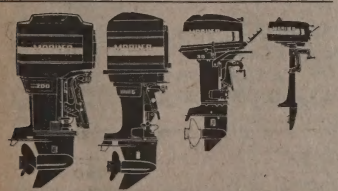
1975 WELLCRAFT V-20, 85 h.p. Evinrude, 9½ h.p. kicker. Dual batteries, auto. bilge pump, full canvas. Paper recorder, Ray Jeff CB. Many extras; excl. cond. $5300. Galvanized trailer w/brakes also avail. 516-421-9081/3717.



25' LUHRS 1970 Fiberglas, 225 h.p. FWC, dual batteries, VHF, DF, head. In water. $6500. Eves. 516-546-0604; Days 212-349-8680.

26' CHRIS CRAFT Cutlass. Exc. cond. Twin 307 c.i., Ross recorder, CB, VHF, chair, O/R & much more. $7500. 201-489-0732 or 201-265-9156.



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2-$295; 4-$460; 5-$530; 8-$670; 9.9-$860; 15-$940; 25-$1145; 30-$1235; 40-$1340; 50-$1755; 60-$2085; 70-$2285- 80-$2475; 90-$2460; 115-$2820; 150-$3635; 175-$3735; 200-$3935. FOB Shipping arranged. SPORTS MARINE, 201-736-3909. West Orange, New Jersey.

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BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

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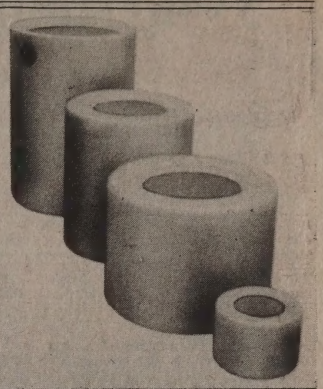

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In response to the growing needs and interests of recreational anglers, IGFA has expanded its goals. We work closely with government fishery agencies to protect and perpetuate the interests of the angling community. We exchange knowledge with scientists involved in game fish research. We help our angling members to participate in vital tagging and data collection programs. And we keep our members informed of current sportfishing developments.

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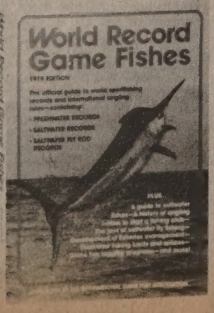
FREE to all members of IGFA



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Donations are tax-deductible

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	5:40	6:05	6:30	6:55	6:20	6:40	7:20	7:40	9:45	10:15	9:05	9:30	5:25	5:50	9/24
FRI.	6:35	6:55	7:25	7:45	7:10	7:30	8:10	8:30	10:35	11:00	10:00	10:20	6:15	6:40	9/25
SAT.	7:20	7:35	8:10	8:30	8:00	8:15	8:50	9:15	11:20	11:45	10:45	11:05	7:05	7:25	9/26
SUN.	8:05	8:15	8:55	9:10	8:40	8:55	9:35	9:55	–	12:05	11:30	11:50	7:45	8:10	9/27
MON.	8:40	8:55	9:30	9:50	9:20	9:35	10:15	10:35	12:25	12:45	–	12:05	8:30	8:50	9/28
TUE.	9:20	9:30	10:10	10:25	10:00	10:15	10:50	11:15	1:05	1:15	12:30	12:45	9:10	9:30	9/29
WED.	9:55	10:05	10:45	11:05	10:35	10:55	11:25	11:50	1:40	1:40	1:10	1:20	9:50	10:10	9/30
THUR.	10:30	10:45	11:20	11:40	11:20	11:35	–	12:05	2:05	1:55	1:45	2:00	10:30	10:50	10/1

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstéad Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

9/25	6:50	6:53
9/26	6:51	6:51
9/27	6:52	6:49
9/28	6:53	6:47
9/29	6:54	6:45
9/30	6:55	6:43
10/1	6:56	6:42

Moonrise/Moonset

9/25	3:56AM	5:55PM
9/26	5:00AM	6:26PM
9/27	6:02AM	6:55PM
9/28	7:03AM	7:22PM
9/29	8:03AM	7:49PM
9/30	9:02AM	8:17PM
10/1	10:00AM	8:47PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/27	10/6	10/13	10/20

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	2:40	**8:50**	3:00	**9:15**
Fri.	3:30	**9:35**	3:45	**10:00**
Sat.	4:15	**10:20**	4:30	**10:45**
Sun.	5:00	**11:00**	5:10	**11:25**
Mon.	5:40	**11:40**	5:50	—
Tues.	6:20	**12:05**	6:40	**12:30**
Wed.	7:05	**12:50**	7:30	**1:15**
Thurs.	7:50	**1:40**	8:15	**2:00**

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ON THE FREEPORT CHARTERBOAT

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- ★ TOP NOTCH CAPTAIN
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☆ 1 DAY ☆

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- SWORDFISH
- DOLPHIN
- YELLOWFIN TUNA

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